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NIAGARA NEWS

February 2, 2001 FREE VOLUME 31 ISSUE 9

Niagara News is produced by the Journalism — Print students at Niagara College, Welland Campus

Buying a toque will raise cash

By JENNIFER CHORNLEY
Staff Writer

It's hats off, toques on, for Toque Tuesday on Feb. 6.

You may have seen the commercials for Toque Tuesday on Global TV and advertisements in the *Globe and Mail* and Famous Players Magazine.

This fund-raising effort was started by the charity Raising the Roof, Canada's only nationally registered charity dedicated to finding long-term solutions to homelessness.

Niagara College second-year students in the Business Administration — Marketing program sales course will be selling toques on the three campuses.

With a minimum $5 donation, you will receive a toque. All donations will support strategies fighting long-term homelessness in the Niagara region.

Nancy Schappert, a professor at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake, says for the students, "This is a perfect combination to support a real project." They can "volunteer" their skills while helping to support a worthwhile cause.

She explains it started with Brock University in St. Catharines getting 300 toques, and Niagara College initially getting 500 toques, but the students were "so enthusiastic" about the idea they got 500 more toques.

Amanda Denys, 20, Cameron Butt, 21, and Shawana Champagne, 20, are just some of the students volunteering their time for a good cause.

Denys says, "This is a good opportunity for real-life experience." Her group has already sold 50 toques.

Butt will be marketing his share of toques on Saturday. He says, "I feel I am putting something back into the community."

Champagne says that this is a "good opportunity in sales to support homeless people."

"Our goal is to beat Brock's (University) 300 (toque) goal," Denys and Champagne say.

In the community, Royal Bank Dominion Securities, with St. Catharines Mayor Tim Rigby's encouragement is asking Niagara citizens to support this cause by stopping at various locations throughout St. Catharines.

Rigby, in his state-of-the-city speech presented to the St. Catharines Chamber of Commerce on Jan. 24, said, "This is an excellent program and is a really interesting concept. The idea is to have some fun, rally the community and take a light-hearted approach to a very serious problem."

He continued, "I have been so impressed with the community support of Toque Tuesday and we're giving them (Royal Bank Dominion Securities) a hand here in St. Catharines." The firm is a national sponsor of the event.

Rigby says although there are many St. Catharines citizens who help the less fortunate, "community participation could be improved here."

Toque sale locations will include the clothing store Opus and the Toronto Dominion bank at The Pen Centre, and the St. Catharines Transit downtown terminal.

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Amanda Denys, 20, Cameron Butt, 21, and Shawana Champagne, 20, gear up for Toque Tuesday.
Photo by Jennifer Chornley

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Many Hands Project exceeds expectations

By DAN D'AMICO
Staff Writer

As one drives up the long driveway of Château des Charmes Winery, the first impression one has is that the place looks like a castle.

One would expect an evening in such a beautiful place to be enchanting. This is exactly what happens as Niagara College's students from the Special Events Management (Post-graduate) program showed how they could prepare for an evening.

This year's Many Hands Project fund-raisers was a silent and a live auction based in the Chardonnay and Cabernet room on the second level of the building. The project will help support Casa el Norte, a non-profit organization based in Fort Erie that takes in refugees.

Shelly Carley, 29, co-chair of the event, said the students exceeded their expectations for the success of the event. "The group was amazing to work with. Everyone worked so hard; they pulled it together perfectly. The decorations were outstanding. They created an amazing ambience for this room."

"I think it was very generous of them (Château des Charmes) to offer us their facilities," said Regan Fink, 26, co-chair of the event. "We had an amazing group. Our team worked very well together. Our school's been an amazing support," she said.

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We're partners with the YMCA. See bulletin page 2

Sam Bayly (left) and co-worker, Ryan McLaughlin are putting the *Niagara News* online.
Photo by Scott Thomson

WE'RE OFFICIALLY ONLINE
visit us at:
www.niagara-news.com

The Journalism-Print program is participating in an information/news article exchange with a newspaper in China. Called Outlook, it is part of a bigger publication called English Weekly, where English is taught in schools and colleges throughout China.

HELPING HANDS

College students help Casa el Norte charity

Continued from page 1

The winery is the largest family-owned winery in Canada. This was one of the many things noted by Andreas Priftis, 25, supervisor at the winery and a student in the Hotel and Restaurant Management program. "Any event that is for charity we support," he said talking about the reason Château des Charmes lent its facilities to the students. "It's a great college and we're a huge supporter of it."

The major attraction for the night was the live auction of a coat valued at over $700. The final bid was $325, and the coat went to Ginny Carley. "I think it's been absolutely wonderful. All the hard work the students put in paid off. I think it's been a rewarding evening for everyone," she said.

Dan Patterson, president of the college, said the Many Hands Project is a wonderful example of an excellent "hands-on" learning experience for the students. "I would venture to say that the Many Hands Project stands as a model and a great example of college students' learning and, at the same time, making an important contribution to the community."

"I think it (an enchanted evening) really has been tonight," said Saundra Patterson, his wife, adding, "I really admire the students for their dedication and all the work they put into this project."

"The highlight of this whole thing is at the end of the given day of the project and they look back at where they began and what they have accomplished."

David Veres, co-ordinator of the Special Events Management (Post-graduate) program, said the students displayed many of the skills they have learned in class. "The event showed the commitment of the Niagara community to worthwhile causes in our area. We hope that this event will help encourage people to become involved in the Many Hands Project."

Speaking of the winery, Priftis said, "We're really committed to old-world tradition. The owners of the winery come right from France. Canada is a new-world wine industry. We're committed to bringing tradition into the new world."

The auctioneers stand in the foyer of Château des Charmes Winery on their way out from an Enchanted Evening silent and live auction.

Photo by Dan D'Amico

The next Many Hands Project fund-raising event is a trivia night at the White Oaks Conference Centre and Spa on Feb. 9 at 7 p.m. Many college departments are fielding teams to compete against one another.

Welland YMCA to locate new facility on campus

We're partners.

The Welland YMCA will relocate to Niagara College's Welland campus in a new facility, Dan Patterson, college president, announced Tuesday.

"We have, indeed, agreed to partner with the YMCA to locate its new facility on our campus grounds. A steering committee, composed of representatives of the YMCA, the college, and the City of Welland, will work to determine the kinds of programs and services that will be made available in this new community centre, as well as the location for the centre."

Patterson continued, "The college views this as an excellent opportunity for our students, our staff, and our relationship with the Welland community. The facility itself will prove to be a welcome addition to meet the training, recreation and health needs of our own population.

"More than that, it will provide ongoing opportunity for Welland residents of all ages to become familiar with our campus and become informed about the many exciting programs we offer in both full-time and part-time studies.

"We look forward to this increased profile and a new level of interaction with our community, which will have ongoing positive implications for the college."

President's Advisory Forum

Be part of the solution.

Join College President, Dan Patterson, for the President's Advisory Forum

Monday, February 5
12:30 to 1:30 p.m.
at the Welland Campus
Room S211

Mr. Patterson invites all students and staff for an open discussion of issues, concerns and questions effecting the Niagara College community.

We want to hear from you!

NIAGARA COLLEGE CANADA

HATS OFF

Student Appreciation Day has raffles, food

By CHRISTINE CHALONER
Staff Writer

A surprise was awaiting students when they entered school on Thursday, Jan. 25: free food, and lots of it.

The giveaway day marked another Student Appreciation Day at Niagara College and gave students chances at free prizes and raffles.

"Having this day makes the student and faculty feel equal and more important," says Geoff Visentin, 19, a student in the second-year of the Computer Programmer Analyst program.

'Having this day makes the student and faculty feel equal and important.'
— Geoff Visentin

Twenty-four different areas in the college participated during the day, giving out cookies, candy and hot apple cider.

Keeping with tradition, the Aboriginal Education Access office gave native scones with jam, while Health Services had healthy food and even condoms sitting out for students to take.

"This is a good idea, although I feel kind of bad going in and stealing things," says Heather Polley, 24, a first-year student in the Social Service Worker program.

The day is the college's way of saying "thanks for choosing Niagara College," according to the sheet given to all students to show what areas were participating.

"The students are sometimes apprehensive to come and see what we have," says Debbie Ellis, working at the Info Centre at the Welland campus.

Draws and guessing games were the excitement of the day, with baskets of goodies waiting to be won in the Health Centre, Info Centre, Foundation Studies, Counselling Services, Campus Store, Aboriginal Education Access, Admissions and Financial Aid, and Registrar's Office, all at the Welland campus.

"The ballot box is really full," says Ellis, adding, "This way we get to meet a few more students who usually don't come around."

"Come find me later and ask if I win in the draws," says Polley, adding. "Then I'll tell you exactly how I feel about this."

"Today is a day of surprises," says Brigitte Chiki, the college's director of student services.

'This is a good idea, although I feel kind of bad going in and stealing things.'
— Heather Polley

The students were surprised from the minute they walked in.

"I think students were more surprised with the festive look we tried to create and all the goodies we put out," says Irma Cain, from the Counselling Services office.

The day doesn't just give students free stuff but teaches students about the school. "This makes them (students) go into areas they normally don't go into," says Ellis. "There are places we don't even know exist," says Polley.

Not everyone thinks the day is filled with just thanking the students though.

"You can tell the student evaluation day is coming up. The same thing happened last year," says Rebecca Holden, 20, a second-year student in the Computer Engineering Technology program. "It's not going to change the way I do my evaluation but it's free food and that's good."

"It's (Student Appreciation Day) nice, but everyone knows it's because of the evaluation — or that's what we (students) all figure," says Crystal Warren, 19, a second-year student in the Computer Engineering Technology program.

Chiki says the day went well. "We wish we (Niagara College) could do it every day."

"The students are thanking us, and we are the ones who should be thanking them," says Chiki, adding, "That's what this day is all about."

Students from the English as a Second Language program enjoy Student Appreciation Day, Jan. 25, with free cookies.

Photo by Christine Chaloner

Toque Tuesday raises money to eliminate homelessness

Continued from Page 1

Other locations will be at the Fairview Mall's food court, Sunoco gas stations, Brock University, St. Catharines City Hall, the St. Catharines General Hospital, and the Hotel Dieu Hospital. The three Commisso's food stores on Bunting Road, Scott Street and Ontario Street are also participating.

In downtown St. Catharines, toques will be sold on St. Paul Street at the Beantrees Restaurant, Pow Wow and The Red Hot Chili Pepper Bar and Grille. The Honest Lawyer Bar and Grill at 84 St. James St. will have volunteers selling toques as well.

Toque Tuesday's first year was in 1998, and 1,000 toques were sold in Toronto. By 2000, 42,000 toques were sold in Toronto, Vancouver and Halifax. The 2001 goal is to sell 100,000 toques.

For more information check the Web site www.raisingtheroof.com.

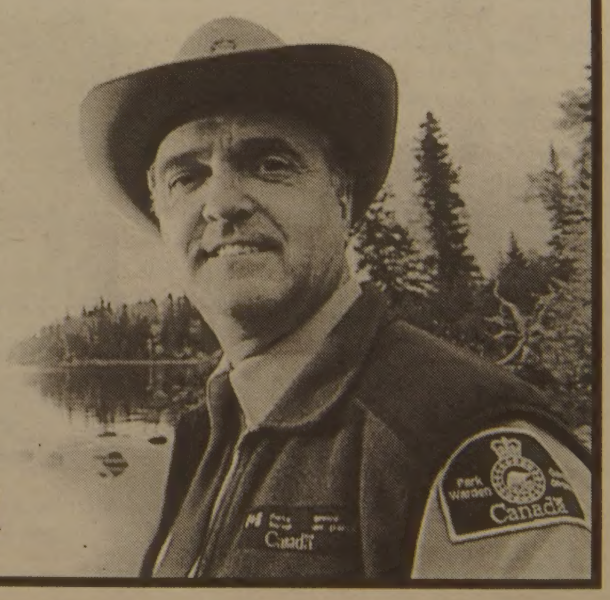
"There are 5,000 students enrolled in Continuing Education courses right now."
See Andrew Sovran's story in the next edition, Feb. 9.

Protecting our natural heritage

Jean Fau is a chief park warden for Parks Canada. He and his colleagues protect the plant and animal life in our national parks. They also help Canadians explore and enjoy these special places. This is just one of the hundreds of services provided by the Government of Canada.

For more information on government services:
- Visit the **Service Canada Access Centre** nearest you
- Visit **www.canada.gc.ca**
- Call **1 800 O-Canada (1 800 622-6232)**
  TTY/TDD: **1 800 465-7735**

Canada



Students Around Campus

Click to destroy landmines worldwide

By JENNIFER CHORNLEY
Staff Writer

Clear landmines at the click of a mouse at www.clear-landmines.com.

One click a day on a computer at Niagara College contributes half a cent towards clearing landmines around the world.

This is one small way the college community can help the Adopt-A-Minefield fund-raising committee reach its target of $10,000.

With the Christmas challenge over, the committee has raised $514.90. In this challenge, wrapped money donation boxes were distributed in various departments at the three campuses.

Determination of future fund-raising events is still being discussed by committee members.

On Jan. 24, the Maid of the Mist Centre (MMC) held a skate-a-thon at the Niagara Falls Memorial Arena with the city council of Niagara Falls donating three hours of skating time.

The skate-a-ton raised $140.05 and with the Canadian International Development Agency's(CIDA) $420.15 in matched funding included, the total is $560.20.

The total amount of money raised so far is $2,699.80, this includes the amonuts matched by CIDA

The MMC also has a stuffed toy monkey in the Student Administrative Council (SAC) office that requires a name. For $1, students can name the monkey with all proceeds going to fund-raising for the committee. The student who submits the best name will win a prize, says Glenn Murray, MMC SAC president.

Murray says SAC is planning more events, but these are undetermined at press time.

The committee has not finalized events at the Welland campus. When these are available they will published in *Niagara News* and *Niagara News Online*.

The Adopt-A-Minefield fund-raising committee was established Nov. 2 with Betty Ann Chandler, faculty, and Sean Taylor, a Journalism-Print program first-year student, co-chairing the committee. Mary Lou Eden, faculty, is the treasurer.

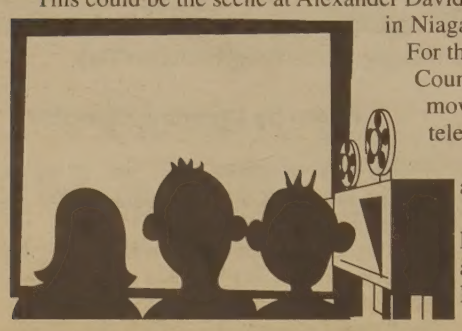
Other members include staff member JoAnne Miani, faculty Joanne Maltby and presidents Murray, for MMC SAC, and Ryan McLaughlin, for the Welland campus SAC.

Glendale campus showing films in its lounge

By HEIDI MORRISON
Staff Writer

Picture it: you, free popcorn and new release movies on a 52-inch television.

This could be the scene at Alexander Davidson's, the student pub at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake.



For the week of Feb. 12, the Student Administrative Council (SAC) will be showing newly released movies on its DVD player and new big-screen television.

Free popcorn will be provided for students all week to add to the movie experience.

"We want to just welcome it in," says LeMoni Dean, vice-president of internal affairs. "We'll be showing movies like Final Destination and Road Trip, and there will also be special giveaways."

SAC has access to all new movies and will be able to get two movies a day because of a deal it has with a movie store, Dean says.

The big screen television will be in the pub starting Feb. 12 on centre stage.

The movies will be showing one after the other and students are welcome to come and go throughout the day.

At press time, there were no show times announced.

For more information, contact the Glendale SAC at 988-4321, ext. 4227.

Anime society discusses 'art' of Japanese animation

By AARON YZERMAN
Staff Writer

People who think cartoons are just for children are wrong.

Though it's not something that most North Americans see, Japanese animation, or "anime," has been expanding the limits of what can be done with cartoons for many years.

"It's more serious. It's got its humour, but their storylines are very good. (The animation) here, the storylines are good, but they're not like Japanese storylines," says Laura Winger, 24, of Welland, a third-year Electronics Engineering Technology program student. She is the acting president of the Anime Society At Niagara (ASAN).

The group, which meets Saturday afternoons from noon to 5:30 p.m. at the Welland campus Hamilton Room, started in September 2000 and meet to watch the latest releases in Japanese animation.

ASAN has about 12 members, but there is a different turnout on most weekends, says Winger. "It varies from weekend to weekend. It just depends on who can make it. It's not the most organized club," she says with a laugh. "I put up posters each week (and) try to hit all the wings of the school so that everybody sees it.

"Mostly, the people just get together for the enjoyment of the anime. They do have some input as to what we see. I try to accommodate what the people ask for," says Winger.

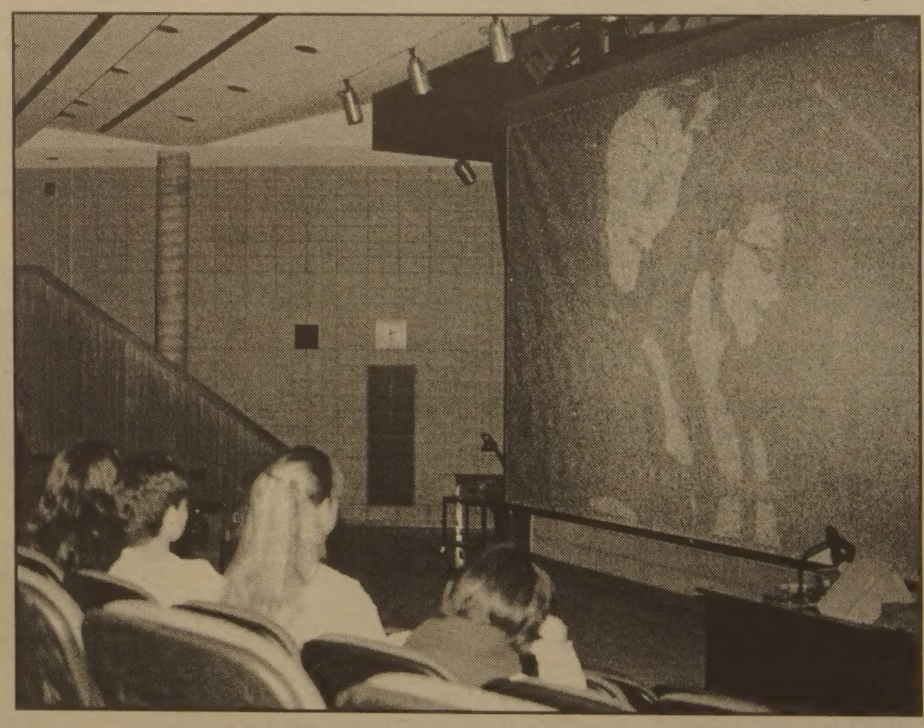
With the popularity of titles like Dragonball Z, Pokemon and Ghost in the Shell, Japanese animation has developed a larger following over the past few years, and it's likely to become bigger.

"It's something you don't get to see a lot of," says Sean Walsh, 26, of Welland, a member of ASAN since last year. "You don't know if it's going to be gripping melodrama, bloody action, comedy or kid's stuff, or whatever. Japanese animators take a lot of chances that North American animators don't.

"My first time here I was a complete novice. I had never seen this stuff before. I had, like, vague memories of Voltron and Robotech in the 1980s. I've found that the Japanese consider animation a perfectly viable media, the equal of live action. Most people in North America, when they think animation, they think Disney, they think Saturday morning cartoons. The Japanese don't have that view of it."

Andrew Saxon, 19, of Welland, a first-year Computer Programmer/Analyst program student, says, "There is a small cult following. It's something different from North American cartoons. It doesn't have the restrictions North American animation does. I see anime as more of an adult cartoon."

Though most anime is often recommended for an older audience, Winger clears up one of the common misconceptions the public has about the animation's content. "A lot of people think it's a lot of nudity, and some of it has some, but it's not pornography. Most of it is fairly clean. There are perfectly clean ones out there that are meant for children to adult ages.



Members of the Anime Society At Niagara watching Cowboy Bebop in the Hamilton Room.

Photo by Aaron Yzerman

"It just depends on the age group and maturity group it was written for. With anything, you should supervise your kids when they're watching something. That's standard with any movie you watch with your kids, you know? It's personal censorship."

Winger says some of the animation that comes to North America from Japan is altered from its original version. She says she doesn't consider that fair to the fans. "I really like animation, and what I see the big companies doing to it, I don't appreciate, but I don't think there's much we can do about it.

"One of the biggest disappointments is that they edit it to the point that it's no longer what the original creator intended it to be. A lot of our stuff is fan-subbed (subtitled in English), because some of it just hasn't made it to Canada, so it hasn't been professionally released. A lot of people prefer subtitled over dubbed because you get to actually hear what the creator of the anime wanted the voices to sound like."

"It's growing, (but) I'd hate to see it become mainstream to the point where they have to cut out all the daring stuff," says Walsh. "Japanese animation takes a lot of chances that you don't see. It's not just kid's stuff. Adults watch anime, too.

"I think it would be good if we start to see, you know, (people saying) 'Hey, there's some really talented people and they're doing some good work,' but not to the point where some big conglomerate gets ahold of it and says, 'OK, you're not allowed to do this, this and this anymore, and you have to place this in here, and you can't do that.' That would be a shame."

"The thing about anime is to remember that it's an art and not to take it superficially, you know?" says Winger. "It's an art. It's something to be appreciated."

THE SAC VOICE

Student Council Welland - Glendale - Maid of the Mist

A Message From SAC

Fellow Students:

The Student Administrative Councils of all three campuses encourage you to participate in the upcoming Student Satisfaction Surveys (Key Performance Indicator) being conducted in your classroom Feb. 5th - 16th. Your responses to survey questions about programs, services, and facilities will provide important feedback to Niagara College. Again, please participate in this process as a member of our college community.

Coming To A Classroom Near You ... Student Satisfaction Survey Feb. 5th - 18th

"PARTICIPATION..... Let your voice be heard"

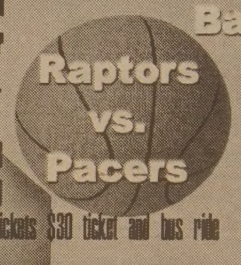
GRAD PHOTOS

Welland Campus (Student Centre) Jan. 29th - Feb. 9th
Glendale Campus (Quiet Room) Feb. 12th - Feb. 16th
MMC Campus (Staff Lounge) Feb. 19th - Feb. 22nd

SACTIVITIES 2001

Tri-Campus Events

Barenaked Ladies Concert



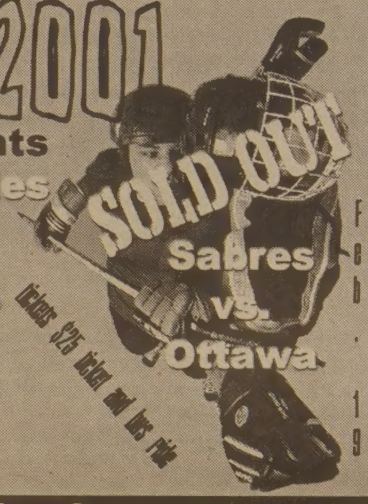
tickets $25 ticket and bus ride

Mar. 30

Raptors vs. Pacers

tickets $30 ticket and bus ride

Feb. 20



tickets $25 ticket and bus ride

Feb. 19

Tickets for all events in the SAC OFFICE

Watch for

Glendale Campus
CLASS REP MEETINGS
Feb. 6th - Feb. 8th

Welland
CLASS REP MEETING
Feb. 6th - 8th

Maid of the Mist
CLASS REP MEETINIG
Feb. 8th

DO YOU WANT TO RUN FOR OFFICE? GET YOUR SAC ELECTION KITS AT ANY SAC OFFICE

STUDENT COUNCIL EXECUTIVE - STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES - BOARD OF GOVERNORS *Kits must be returned by 12:00 noon FEB 23rd*

Coming to all campuses "SEXUAL AWARENESS WEEK" Feb. 19th - 23rd see your SAC office for event listings

CAMPUS PUB STUFF

Now showing:

FREE SAC MOVIE NIGHTS

Every Tuesday Night

After Hours Pub

Tuesday Feb. 6th
CHARLIE'S ANGELS

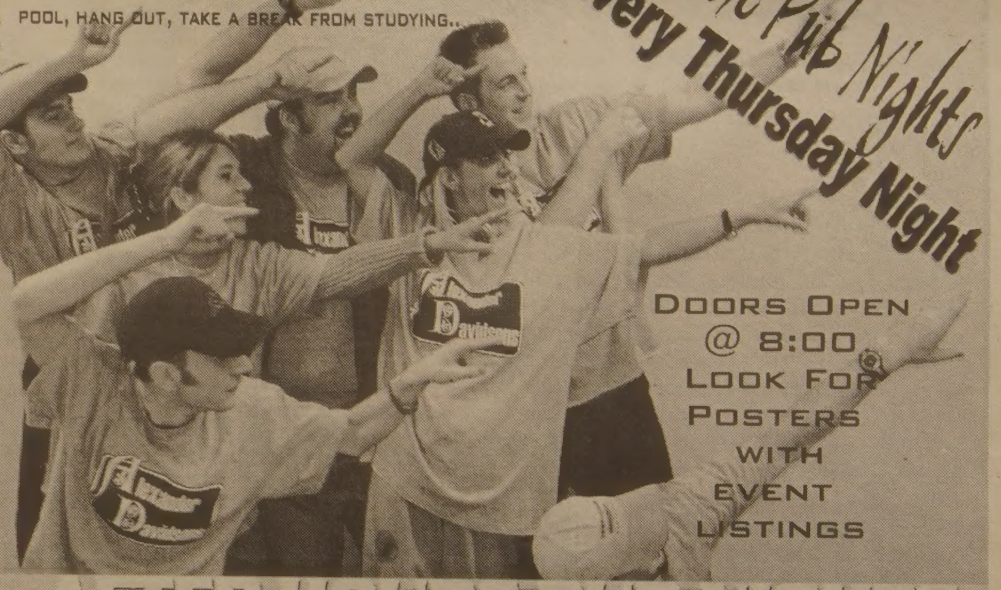
Tuesday Feb. 13th
MEN OF HONOR
"In Honour of Black History Month"

Tuesday Feb. 20th
THE 6th DAY
Starring Arnold "The King of Action"

Doors 8:00 Movie 8:30

ALEXANDER DAVIDSONS

JOIN ROCHELLE AND THE STAFF EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT, WATCH SURVIVOR, CATCH A BAND, GUEST D.J's, SHOOT SOME POOL, HANG OUT, TAKE A BREAK FROM STUDYING...



Glendale Pub Nights
Now Every Thursday Night

DOORS OPEN @ 8:00
LOOK FOR POSTERS WITH EVENT LISTINGS

ON TOUR Mark Breslin's YUK YUKS WWW.YUKYUKS.COM

STAND UP AFTER HOURS PUB NIGHTS

LIVE COMEDY

Wed. Feb. 7th
XXX RATED SHOW
B.J WOODBURY & GLEN OTTAWAY
"This will be the best show of the year"

Wed. Feb. 14th
KELLY DIXION & MIKE NEMIROFF

Every Wednesday Night

Welland Campus

Join us in Welland Every Thursday Night

Thursday Feb. 15th

"6th Annual"

BEACH BASH 2001

COLLEGE REPORT CARD

KPI results determine provincial funding

By BROOKE DREDGE
Staff Writer

Attention graduating students. This is your "heads up" to Niagara College's Key Performance Indicators (KPI) surveys, which will be occurring over the next few months.

The KPIs are designed to allow the provincial government to see where the college's programs and courses rank in relation to other colleges'.

"We could be half a point under another school and lose out on hundreds of thousands of dollars in funding," said Bonnie Rose, vice-president academic for Niagara College.

Rose said the money the school receives goes to introducing new programs and courses and to updating existing ones with new equipment and material.

"Without the funding we aren't able to better equip our students or prospective students.

"We try to encourage students to participate in the surveys and be honest with their answers, because the programs and service offered reflect that," she added.

In a wide-ranging interview, Rose explained each survey and its purpose.

The first survey measures student satisfaction. This provincially mandated questionnaire, conducted after the first academic term, allows college administration to see students' perspectives on their programs and services being offered.

It allows students to decide if their learning experience is relevant to their future employment and if the quality of their education is high. It also allows the college to see if the learning resources are high quality, and if staff services are high quality, for example library services, tutoring services, employment services, and so on.

This survey occurs in February. It helps the college improve on problem areas and offer better services to students.

These questions also give the government the data it needs to publicly rank colleges and areas needing attention. The results also impact the college and its funding but also its competitiveness with other colleges for government grants. The funding is based on the results and is used to enhance the learning experience.

The second KPI analysis is through the graduate survey conducted six months after graduation. This one gathers employment and satisfaction data.

These results give colleges information about the labour market to help them plan their programs and make changes to better equip students for the workforce. This survey is also able to assess if students enrolled in first semester programs will be able to complete them in the designed timeframe. Funding is also affected by these results. Crucial in the calculation is employment rates and graduate satisfaction with skills and knowledge acquired in their programs.

The final KPI is achieved through the employer satisfaction survey administered one month following the KPI graduate survey. This assesses the employers' satisfaction with the graduate's educational preparation, and is also a funding determinant.

Rose said she wanted to "make it known" that she thinks "students have a right to know that KPIs have an impact on funding."

Student feedback provides valuable information to Niagara College to help offer the best programs and services.

SURVEY	WHEN?	USE OF RESULTS
1st YEAR STUDENT SURVEY • all incoming students • general information	October	• gives college good profile of students • helps to determine curriculum components and services such as computer labs or tutorials for math • helps know best way to reach potential students
COURSE EVALUATION SURVEY • all students • all courses	November	• helps faculty enhance individual courses • helps faculty and directors make curriculum decisions
KPI STUDENTS SATISFACTION SURVEY (KPI survey mandated by provincial government) • all students after Term 1 • tells your evaluation of programs and services	February	• specific details help college improve programs and services • "capstone" or OVERALL questions are used by government to publicly rank colleges and programs • results impact on funding competitive with other colleges • special funding, based on results, is used to enhance your college learning experience
KPI GRADUATE SURVEY • all graduates • gathers employment + satisfaction data	6 months after you graduate	• information about labour market helps plan programs and program changes • helps determine services to provide for graduates • links to funding from government based on employment rate and graduate satisfaction
KPI EMPLOYER SATISFACTION SURVEY	One month following KPI graduate survey	• links to funding from government based on employer satisfaction with graduates
OTHER SURVEYS OR INFORMATION INCLUDES: • Student Computer Survey (on-line) • others from time to time		

Students' opinions affect funding

By LAURA T. RICCIUTO
Staff Writer

Unhappy students can result in less government money for Niagara College.

College officials, who say they are "sorry" for any scheduling difficulties that students encountered in January, hope that students will not hold that against them when evaluating the college in the upcoming Key Performance Indicator surveys (KPIs).

"I hope students recognize that we know there was a problem, and that we are working very hard to address that problem. I hope students take into account that their response to the KPI survey affects our funding," says Bonnie Rose, vice-president academic.

Niagara College President Dan Patterson says, "Like in life, it is important to look at the whole picture when evaluating the college, not only when there is a problem."

"I'm concerned that students don't realize how much it (KPI results) affects our funding. They have a right to know," says Rose, adding, "It's only like As and Bs count and neutrals are as bad as dissatisfied."

When asked how she expects students to express their dissatisfaction with the college, she responded, "Students don't need to use the KPIs to give us a message."

Rose explained this as the reason for the recent development of an e-mail address designated for students to share their comments with the college administration.

Comments and suggestions can be forwarded to Niagara College at feedback@niagarac.on.ca.

BONNIE ROSE

90% of Ontario graduates now finding employment

By BROOKE DREDGE
Staff Writer

The annual Employment Profile shows that 90 per cent of Ontario college graduates found work within six months of graduating. Two-thirds found work in their field of study.

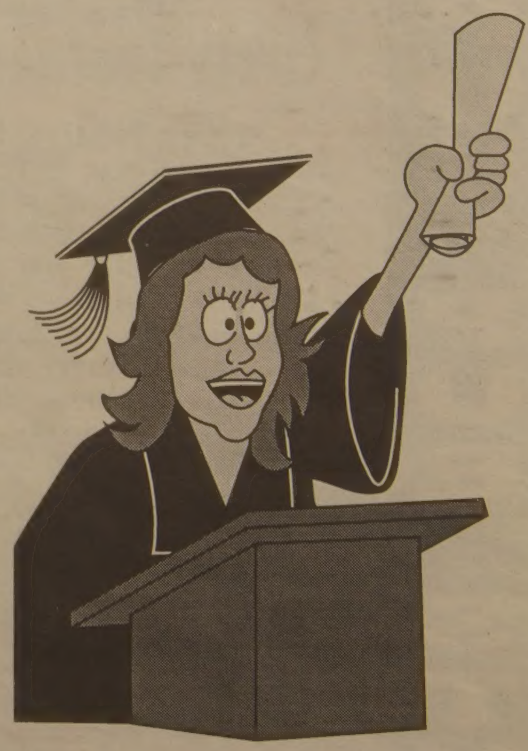
"This demonstrates that students are making informed choices about programs that are successful in preparing them for jobs in the workforce," said Dianne Cunningham, minister of training, colleges and universities, recently in a press release.

"We made a blueprint commitment to provide students and their parents with the relevant information they need to make informed choices about their future based on real information," she added. "We have met that commitment and have taken the next step to ensure this important information is easily accessible to students."

The annual profile also shows that 91.3 per cent of employers were either satisfied or very satisfied with how well their employees were prepared for the workplace environment. More than 80 per cent of the graduates also indicated that they too were both satisfied and very satisfied with their college education.

The Employment Profile is a summary of employment information about college students who graduated in 1998-1999. It is based on responses from 31,286 of a total 42,190 college graduates. The data was collected six months following graduation, and more than 6,200 employers were surveyed.

Employment rates for college graduates is just one of the Key Performance Indicators that are collected annually to measure and report on the post-secondary system. Other areas included in the assessment are the Ontario Student Assistance Plan default rates, graduation rates, and student and employer satisfaction.



The data of this report is collected through the graduate outcomes/graduate satisfaction survey and the employer satisfaction survey. Its purpose is to provide useful information for potential college students who are trying to make informed career choices and program selections.

FEEDBACK@NIAGARA

College 'sorry' for scheduling confusions

Students are encouraged to share their comments, experiences at feedback@niagarac.on.ca

By LAURA T. RICCIUTO
Staff Writer

It's bad news, and good news.

Scheduling timetables is not Niagara College's strong point, but the good news is officials say they are "trying" to prevent severe scheduling problems from recurring in future.

Students were "inconvenienced" at the start of the winter term in January because of scheduling problems that resulted from the college's efforts to accommodate student and teacher requests, said Bonnie Rose, vice-president academic.

Since the "crisis," Niagara College has established a scheduling task force of college executives to resolve and investigate this problem.

Although there's a surprise at the bottom of every Cracker Jacks box, Niagara College President Dan Patterson says he is "confident" that the "crackerjack team" responsible for the newly developed scheduling task force will be "successful."

When asked to clarify his meaning of "crackerjack team," Patterson says he feels the Niagara College staff designated to this task force are "the most skilled and experienced administration, not only in Ontario but in Canada."

The five-member "team" is composed of Rose, Martha Casson, vice-president enterprise and service development, Steve Hudson, vice-president corporate services, Barry Sharpe, dean of foundation studies, and Beth Weldon, chief information officer.

Although the "team" has yet to conduct its first meeting since the January announcement, Rose says one will be scheduled in the "near future."

Patterson continues by explaining each of the members' qualifications and areas of specialty.

He says Weldon is considered "a leader in information technology in the system," adding that Sharpe "knows every square inch of building at the college" and he will be a "master of analysis and space utilization for students."

As for the vice-presidents of the college, Patterson comments that Rose brings with her a background in the private sector as well as "excellent problem-solving skills."

Casson, who formerly worked as registrar at a school with a population of more than 12,000 students, will be able to provide "great ways" of looking at scheduling.

Finally, Hudson, who has "successfully managed millions of dollars" in previous work-related experience will be an "asset to the team."

The scheduling problem is not being blamed on any one factor but, Weldon says, it was a combination of "many, many factors."

Among the most prevalent causes were including too many requests at too short a notice, delays in information being received and, as Rose explains, "The scheduling programming was not up to snuff."

Patterson, along with Weldon and Rose, agree that the recently implemented $3-million PeopleSoft software will help prevent this sort of problem.

"People are never happy. There are always issues about scheduling," says Weldon, adding, "We take any inconvenience to students very seriously, and we are really sorry for what (problems) people may have encountered."

While there were reported incidents of classroom relocations without student notice, classes that did not appear on original timetables as well as the tardiness or absence of students receiving their schedule, Weldon says she has received no report of any students missing whole classes as a result of the college errors.

Rose says she has not been notified of students being affected academically by the recent scheduling confusion.

"Mostly we received reports of students that arrived in a classroom and found no teacher, because they were not notified of a room change," commented Rose.

Patterson concludes, "We're very sorry there were any inconveniences. We hope you see that we are moving quickly to correct this. (Student) experience and learning at Niagara College is absolutely the number one priority."

Students are encouraged to share their experiences on this situation at feedback@niagarac.on.ca.

Student Satisfaction Survey coming Feb. 5-16

kpi ✓

Proud to be Niagara!

An Open Letter to Students

Second and third year students will already be familiar with the **Student Satisfaction Survey** – part of a series of five Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), which all Ontario colleges implemented two years ago.

This year's survey will be conducted during the weeks of February 5 – 16. All full-time students, except for those in term I, will be asked to complete the survey, which takes 20 to 30 minutes. It will ask you questions about your satisfaction with your educational experience at Niagara College and is completely confidential.

Results from the KPI surveys of our students, graduates and employers will help colleges build on their successes and identify areas of improvement. Ultimately, a significant percentage of our provincial funding will depend on our performance as measured by these KPIs. Your positive responses on the surveys are more than a checkmark – they can have a major impact on the funds we receive in the next year.

Previous student satisfaction survey results indicated that a clear majority of students were satisfied with the quality of their overall educational experience at Niagara. I believe this reflects a college-wide commitment to your success and to providing you with the best education and training possible.

I want to thank you in advance for your co-operation in completing the survey. Your participation and support is very important to the future of the college.

Sincerely,

Dan Patterson, President

NIAGARA COLLEGE CANADA

EDITORIALS

The Niagara News is a practical lab for the Journalism-Print program, covering the college community and other areas of interest.
Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the management of the Niagara News or the administration of
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Diplomat escapes from Canadian legal system

It's shocking. It's possible to kill somebody in Canada and still be able to leave the country.

If you were Andrei Knyazev, you would be in Russia right now, while family members of Catherine MacLean, the woman you killed while driving drunk, mourn her loss. You would also be responsible for the death of her dog. His name was Fielder. He was injured so badly he had to be euthanized.

MacLean was walking Fielder, with her friend Catherine Dore, on a beautiful Ottawa night, when all three were struck. Dore suffered a leg fracture, a broken right ankle and broken nose. Doctors performed reconstructive surgery on parts of Dore's face.

Knyazev is a Russian diplomat. This means that after he commits a crime, he can use his diplomatic immunity to leave Canada and seek "punishment" in Russia. This is what Knyazev did.

He is charged with criminal negligence causing death, impaired driving and refusing to provide a breath sample. For what reasons did Knyazev refuse to provide a breath sample? It's obvious. He was drunk. He could barely walk or speak at the time of his arrest, police report.

Knyazev wasn't the only drunken Russian that day. Another Russian diplomat and a Russian Embassy worker were charged with impaired driving in separate incidents. All of them were returning from a daylong ice fishing expedition on the Ottawa River.

It's unjust that a person can commit a crime in a country, but not have to face that country's legal system. Why is this? How harsh will Russia be on one of her own? Canada's ambassador to Russia says the diplomat is likely to face a tougher time at home than here but lawyers in Russia suggest that the chances of Knyazev facing trial are slim. Canada asked the Russian government to waive diplomatic immunity and allow Knyazev to face Canadian courts, but Russian authorities refused.

In 1999, a similar event in Ottawa occurred: a hit-and-run crash. The police charged a diplomat with dangerous driving and failing to remain at the scene, but the case never proceeded because of his diplomatic immunity.

MacLean is survived by her two sons: Lachlan Cheng, 16, and Alastair Cheng, 19. On Monday night, mourners held a vigil in MacLean's memory, leaving flowers and candles in front of her house. A card addressed to MacLean and her dog read, "Two beautiful spirits, bodies taken senselessly, let their spirits live."

Bill Stephenson

Canada's media distribution being taken over

Long ago, in Canada's early days, there was a small daily newspaper that prided itself on giving this infant nation's people a true and accurate account of the news free from any political agenda's interference.

However, in the words of a great man, "the times they are a changin'."

Bell Globemedia, a new converged business entity, is taking over Canada's media distribution with whirlwind force.

Media monopolies are nothing new. Companies are bought and sold like so much market produce every day, yet there seems to be something a little bit more "1984-ish" about this merger.

When publisher George Brown introduced The Globe in 1844 he did so with the noble intention of having a publication that spoke the truth and was not subject to the governing powers. Even the paper's motto, which still appears in it today, was a statement of Brown's beliefs.

"The subject who is truly loyal to the Chief Magistrate will neither advise nor submit to arbitrary measures." This quote, from an 18th century writer, appears on the paper's editorial page and embodies the Globe and Mail's tenet that "only an informed public can defend itself against power seekers who threaten its freedoms."

However, those "power seekers" have just purchased the paper and now control its long trusted content.

Bell Globemedia is a conglomerate of Bell Canada, The Globe and Mail, CTV, and Sympatico, effectively making itself the controller of information from start to finish in every available medium.

With over 70 per cent of Bell Globemedia resting in the hands of Bell Canada Enterprises, who is to say its executives won't start deciding what content is profitable and what isn't, recklessly regardless of fact, and without public awareness?

With this in mind, it may be that very financial bottom line that saves the newspaper and its pursuit of unbiased information. The Globe and Mail has earned a reputation for telling it how it is. It is bad business to mess with a working formula, at least for now.

Ryan McLaughlin

Letter to the Editor
Story of grieving mother brought tears to a citizen's eyes

Dear Editor:

Please express my sincere congratulations to *Niagara News* staff writer Laura Ricciuto for her recent front page story "Grieving mother fights for justice." (Vol. 31, No. 8, Jan. 26, 2001.)

Although familiar with the sad story of the death of Robyn Lafleur and her mother's quest for justice, Laura's article moved me to tears.

It truly captured the grief and sadness of a senseless accident. Laura did provide the fair and objective reporting that journalists are trained to provide, but she also did something that I think is just as important. She touched our hearts.

Brenda Herchmer
Manager, Niagara Centre
For Community Leadership
Welland

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VIEWPOINTS

Insincerity leaves student enraged

By KEVIN HARTFORD
Staff Writer
Column

Consider the following exchange.

"Let me pay for dinner."

"No, I'm paying. Put your money away."

"I insist. I'm polite. That's what polite people do: pay for dinner."

"No! I'm paying! Put your money away or I'll stab you with my fork."

All right, so maybe it's not quite that extreme in real life, but we've all been witnesses to the horrifically insincere let-me-pay-for-dinner scenario. The other person doesn't really want to pay for dinner; the person just wants to give the impression of being caring and considerate.

These awkward exchanges exist because of "society," which regulates what's polite and what's not. Apparently, it's quite rude not to fake wanting to pay your fair share for a recently digested meal.

This rabid phoniness has a tendency to spin wildly out of control.

Once upon a time, while dining with my parents, I ordered a banana split from a local eatery. The waiter took my order, then returned a moment later to tell me that the restaurant was out of bananas. I said just the ice cream would be fine, thanks, and he told me that, because of the lack of bananas, I could have my split for free.

My parents feigned insult and said things like "Oh, no" and "We'll pay" while the waiter said, "It's okay" and "Don't worry about it." A minute and a half of time and breath and semi-offended hand gestures were wasted because my parents couldn't just say, "Great, thanks."

To make matters worse, after the waiter left, my parents said, "We'll pay for the split, anyway. That waiter was a really nice guy." I told them, "Hey, it's a free split. What the hell's wrong with you?" They responded with a phrase that echoes in my brain whenever I think back to my traumatic, etiquette-heavy childhood: "We don't take advantage of people."

We don't take advantage of people? The guy offered to give me the split for free. Taking him up on his offer is somehow taking advantage of him? Come on! When I think of taking advantage of someone, I think of walking up to total strangers, convincing them they know me from somewhere, then convincing them they owe me 10 bucks, then collecting the 10 bucks. But a free banana split? Please.

To make things simple: if you invite someone out to dinner, pay for the meal, as you are the reason that person is sitting in that restaurant. If you can't afford to pay for the meal, ask if the other person would mind getting separate cheques, or splitting the bill, but make sure you ask this before going out to dinner. This allows the other person adequate time to weasel out of the deal.

If someone offers to pay for dinner and you suspect the person has no intention of following through with the offer, take the money. Rip it out of the person's hands and wave it in the air and say, "Ha, ha! I've got your money!" If he or she, like my parents, labels you an evil demon child, and a "user" to boot, for accepting someone else's generosity, ignore the statement. That person obviously has a lot to learn.

OSAP bungle left student evicted, poor

By CRYSTAL LANGILLE
Staff Writer
Column

If you read my column in last week's issue, you know that I owed $492 to the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities in order to receive the January instalment of my Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) funding.

Some of you probably related to the helplessness I felt knowing that it was the holiday season, but not knowing where the money was going to come from.

Well, thanks to my always-generous younger sister, Shannon, and my father, a knight in shining armour, I was able to continue school.

However, half the battle was yet to come.

My only obligation after paying back the ministry was to bring the receipts of payment to the Financial Aid office at the college and wait for my money.

I brought my receipts in on Jan. 2. It would only delay the process for about a week I was told.

That was fine.

I told my landlord that my rent would be about a week late.

Apparently I was wrong.

The OSAP funds didn't come.

An eviction notice was posted on my door. I had a week to pay my rent and the cost for the eviction notice, for a total of $790; otherwise, I'd have to leave.

I was down at the Financial Aid office nearly every day for the first two weeks of school trying to find out where my OSAP cheque was.

Time and again I was told, "In a couple of days," or "By the end of the week," or "Next Monday."

I was running out of time and patience.

Instead of waiting in line outside Financial Aid one Tuesday morning, I decided to call them.

Again I asked if my OSAP cheque was in. After giving my Social Insurance Number to the person on the other end of the line, she said, "Hmm. It says you're ineligible. Did you bring in your receipts?"

I lost it.

I had given them my receipts two weeks earlier.

She told me my OSAP hadn't even been processed yet.

This was no longer a problem with the ministry. It was a problem with my own college. It hadn't completed its part of the process.

"I'm about to be evicted Friday," I cried.

I could barely breathe. I was panicking.

I was told to visit Financial Aid the next morning.

When I arrived, there was good news. I was approved for a bursary and someone had quickly processed my OSAP.

I could finally exhale.

"You could pick it up Friday morning," I was told.

It would give me a couple of hours to pay my rent before I had to go to my eviction hearing.

Everything would be OK.

However, I was smarter now. I wasn't going to believe that I would have my money by Friday morning. Whatever could go wrong would, right?

I called the Ontario Rental Housing Tribunal and I was given one more week to pay.

Thank God!

I was right. Neither my OSAP nor my bursary was ready Friday morning.

"Next week," they said.

Well, Monday morning I received my bursary. Finally, I'm on my way to serenity.

And my OSAP cheque?

"By the end of the week," I was told.

Please save yourself this trouble and learn from my mistakes. Always prepare for situations that you least expect.

Student not ready to leave the nest yet

By PATRICIA HUGHES
Staff Writer
Column

I miss high school.

There, I said it. I spent five years wanting to get out of high school and into college so I could get out into the "real world." Now that the "real world" is getting closer I want back into high school.

I guess you can say I'm getting cold feet, but it's not that simple. It's not like skydiving where I can back out at the last minute before I take that fatal jump. Each day that passes is a step closer to leaving college and starting a life that I'm scared to death to start.

I've spent most of my life in school; it's all I really know. No matter what amount of education I have received, I am still left with fears of the future.

What if I can't get a job in my field? Will I be working at Swiss Chalet for the rest of my life? What if I don't make enough money to pay my bills, let alone my loan? The worst fear of all is living with my mom until my retirement.

At least if I went back to high school I could start all over. Maybe I'd work harder in certain subjects; maybe even change the profession I want to get into. I suppose if I didn't finish college until I was 50 I'd still have the same worries.

All right, I won't go back to high school, but if I end up living in the middle of nowhere with some beer-swigging idiot as a husband, still working at Swiss Chalet, then I suggest you stay in school for as long as you can.

Quebec plays big role in national identity

By CALUM McNEIL
Staff Writer
Column

Canada owes its sense of identity to Quebec. The false ideal upon which our nation is based is derived from the compromises forced upon us by accommodating Quebecers within the federation.

It is the Canadian paradox: Quebec is at once our greatest national weakness and our greatest source of identity and individuality.

Multi-culturalism is simply the federal government's Quebec policy extrapolated to all the minorities in the country. English Canada has never been able to develop a real sense of nationalism because it would threaten Quebec. Rather than acknowledge the truth, that our "tolerance" of minorities was born from English Canada's weakness in dealing with Quebec, we instead act as if it were our choice to be tolerant.

We turn it into a defining virtue of what it is to be Canadian.

The irony is that Quebec has pushed Canada throughout its history to assert its independence, and it has made us a nation. Quebec resented our ties with Britain. It is no coincidence that it has been French-Canadian prime ministers who have moved Canada towards true independence.

It was under Prime Minister Wilfrid Laurier that we gained our navy and began handling our own foreign policy. It was under Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau that we abandoned our nuclear deterrent and repatriated the Constitution.

Canada was founded on compromise. This is when our national inferiority complex began. We know there is no real passion for Canada within Quebec, so we have to placate Quebecers and convince them of our good nature.

Quebec is a nation; this is its strength. Quebec will always play a disproportionately large role in Canadian affairs because it doesn't need us.

We do not define it; it defines us. Quebecers know it, and they take advantage of it.

I believe English Canada is more American than we care to admit. I believe that if Quebec were not part of Canada we would be exactly like our gun-toting brothers to the south.

With Quebec, Canada is compromised. Without Quebec, we are nothing.

VIEWPOINTS

Drunk drivers: realize you can kill

By HEIDI MORRISON
Staff Writer
Column

Our lives are all about choices. As humans, we sometimes make wrong choices, and that is understandable.

It is when people make a decision that they know will risk the lives of others that I will never understand. I will never understand why people choose to drink and drive.

We've all been there. At a party on a Saturday night, we toss back some beer, with friends. Everyone gets "trashed" and then, when it's time to leave, we have someone weaving across the driveway, insisting he or she is "fine to drive."

Before I came to college, I lived in a small town, where there were no taxis or bus service. We always arranged for someone to be the designated driver (DD). The DD played an important role every weekend and I truly believe it saved lives.

I was often the DD, and, to tell you the truth, it never really bothered me. The one thing that did bother me was the way I was pressured to drink, even after I explained I was driving.

"Oh, come on. It's only one drink. I do it all the time," I remember one person saying to me. I never understood that frame of mind. Choosing to drink and drive can cause death, but many people never take that into consideration.

The drunk driver walks away unhurt, and all your loved ones are dead. Bloody and mangled, they have had everything taken away in an instant — all because that person chose to drink and drive.

Now, I'm not saying all young people drink and drive, but I have witnessed it more than I'd like to.

"They'll learn their lesson eventually," is the comment I hear most often when talking about people who drink and drive.

Right, and that should make a big difference to the family of the person that has been killed. I'm sure it's worth it to a grieving mother and father, as long as the drunk driver has learned a lesson.

Be aware. Please, don't ever take the chance. If you still can't understand what type of damage can be done, simply picture yourself and everyone you care about innocently driving along. Then headlights cross over the yellow line, and you hear the crush of metal. It's all over.

The drunk driver walks away unhurt, and all your loved ones are dead. Bloody and mangled, they have had everything taken away in an instant — all because that person chose to drink and drive.

Unfortunately, this is the way it ends all too often. There are ways to prevent this from happening. Make the right choice.

Violence not the answer to problems

By TARA FORD
Staff Writer
Column

Whenever I used to hear the word violence, I'd think "stupid." Now when I hear the word violence, I cringe.

The other night I saw something I never wanted to see and never thought I'd have to see.

From what I remember, I was sitting with a couple of friends at a local bar. Out of nowhere, I heard a bottle crash; I figured someone was drunk and had just dropped a bottle. I was wrong.

I turned around and saw a guy lying on the ground being beaten by who knows how many other guys. He was being kicked, punched and basically mauled.

Then, out of the corner of my eye, I saw a guy pick up a chair and with all of his strength, throw it on top of this guy. I was standing, feet planted on the ground, almost frozen. I didn't know what to do or what to say. I felt tears come to my eyes and I wondered, "Why?"

Then the victim's saviour, a tiny girl, smaller than I am, dragged this guy out of the bar by his feet. No one knew where this guy went or whether he was all right.

Not only did I feel bad for this guy in the bar, but I felt bad for all of the innocent bystanders. Anyone could have been hurt by this senseless act of violence.

As this was going on, I was standing maybe six feet away from it all.

Call me naive. Call me a wimp. Call me pure and innocent. No matter what anyone else thinks, I will always feel that violence isn't an answer to any of life's problems.

Tracy's perspective needed consideration

By KANDIS THORSBY
Staff Writer
Column

His hands are wrapping you in a warm blanket and carrying you out to his vehicle.

These hands are familiar and comforting to you — they are your father's hands.

His hands are the same ones that once fed you, clothed you, cared for you and are now placing a hose in the driver's-side window. It's a hose that without your knowledge is connected to the exhaust pipe. The hose slowly releases carbon monoxide and your lungs breathe it in. Your eyes begin to droop. Your father watches from outside the vehicle, and maybe, just maybe, you wonder why your consciousness slips away.

This is my assumed account of Tracy Latimer's death and, to my knowledge of the case, mine is not far from the reality. Tracy was a 12-year-old girl with cerebral palsy, but was not unlike other 12-year-old girls; she attended school, interacted with peers and enjoyed music. Her father, Robert Latimer, decided a year ago that it was pointless for Tracy to live because he saw only many more painful surgeries and continual suffering ahead in her life.

Who is this man? Really, is he God? Can he say what was in the best interest of his daughter, when, according to the article in the Jan. 23 edition of the *Toronto Star*, he considered her dead already on the day she was born?

This case causes mixed emotions among a lot of people in the sense that he has made us feel that she was suffering and all he wanted was to end that pain for her.

In the end, was she really suffering or was he? Being a father of three other children and a husband could be very stressful and then to top it off being a father of a severely disabled child could really make the stress meter elevate.

Is his action justified? In my eyes, never. He is not God and he does not get to decide that his child should die. According to her classmates, teachers and friends, she was a very happy girl.

Should we feel sympathy for a lifestyle he chose, that being the lifestyle of continuing to keep Tracy at home and not using the benefits of respite care and the choice he made to have three more children after her. I don't believe that any amount of stress created by any sort of decisions made rule out the human rights of another individual. After all, a life is still a life and murder is still murder no matter what fancy name you give it — euthanasia or mercy killing.

This man knowingly killed his daughter because he thought or felt her death was for the best, but there are many other Canadians who have cerebral palsy who live their lives day in and day out enjoying the pleasures they do get to have in a very happy manner.

Maybe we should consider Tracy's perspective. How would it feel to have no voice and to always give the impression of needing your decisions made for you? I believe what he did was wrong. I think any human would choose to live instead of to die. Maybe we see other people's lives as being not as glamourous as ours, but that is opinion and judgment, not fact, and certainly not justification for murder.

"When I love a person, I say so every day."
See Tara Ford's column in our next edition, Feb. 9.

PROFILES

Co-ordinator brings enthusiasm to class

By PAUL FINELLI
Staff Writer

For Mike Haekstra, being chosen by Niagara College's School of Horticulture and Agribusiness was a shock, but an honour too.

Haekstra became, at the start of this term, the new co-ordinator of the Horticulture Technician (Co-op) and Greenhouse Technician (Co-op) programs, which are part of the Environment, Horticulture and Agribusiness Division at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Glendale campus. He is also a full-time instructor of landscape construction, and a pesticide technology and a greenhouse course.

In a telephone interview with the *Niagara News*, he explained the reason for his shock at being chosen. "I think there were probably a lot of people applying for the position, and it was nice being recognized."

Haekstra joined the ranks last year as a part-time instructor, teaching landscape construction, "and then this opportunity rose to teach a little more," he said in a personal interview.

He said he was then, and is still, the project co-ordinator with Outdoor Images, a "full-service landscape company — design, build and maintenance," in St. Catharines, where he has worked for 10 years.

He conceded his new position means his responsibilities with the company are now "in a very limited role." Anyway, this time of year there are fewer outdoor projects to do, he said, crediting the staff as being supportive of and co-operative with his newest role at the college. Still, Haekstra added, between the two positions, "I've got a full workload."

Haekstra, 33, was born and raised in St. Catharines, where he continues to live. He graduated with a diploma in 1990 from a three-year program at the Niagara Parks Commission's School of Horticulture in Niagara Falls. He later explained by telephone it was his interest in working outdoors that led to his going into the horticulture field. For example, there was his summer job at a local golf course where he cut grass, among other things. Eventually, he said, "I had heard about the school and applied, so I got in."

Standing inside the barn at the Glendale campus, Mike Haektsra awaits the on-site yardwork in store this term for his students. He was made the new co-ordinator of the Horticulture Technician (Co-op) and Greenhouse Technician (Co-op) programs this term.
Photo by Paul Finelli

Haekstra expressed his excitement to be working at the college, especially at the "beautiful campus" and in the division to which he belongs. "I feel honoured that the college has chosen me to do it and I'm excited to do a good job, for the college and the students." Aside from trying "to pick up where Tom (Ball) left off," he said he doesn't plan on any major changes this school year. He said he does plan to complete the construction of the fences in the gardens at the front of the main building at the Glendale campus, a project he is eager to get unde rway soon with landscape construction students.

Tom Ball, the former co-ordinator, retired at the end of last term, having left behind a 30-year-long devotion to the horticulture programs at the college as a technician and professor.

Though Haekstra is filling Ball's shoes in a certain respect, Haekstra said he isn't too daunted by that prospect. "I feel fortunate that there's experienced staff in this division that can help (or) mentor me."

Asked what he feels he offers as a horticulture professor and co-ordinator, he stated: "I have a lot of enthusiasm. I hopefully can convey that to the students . . . I do have 10 years of experience in the industry, so I hope that I can relate, and hopefully leadership."

College to have 'strategic approach' to recruitment

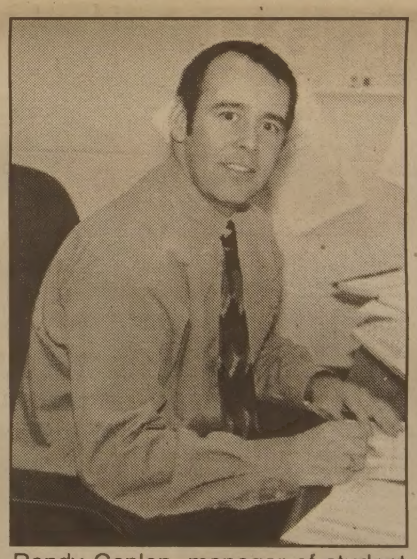
By STEPHEN D'ORAZIO
Staff Writer

Student recruitment at Niagara College has a new advocate.

Since Jan. 2, Randy Conlon has held the newly created position of manager of student recruitment.

Conlon, who has worked at Niagara College for 10 years, is leaving his old position, co-ordinator of liaison, to Tanis Boak, a graduate of the Public Relations (Post-graduate) program.

Conlon's new duties include taking over Orientation, managing the Information Centre, and analyzing market share reports.


Randy Conlon, manager of student recruitment, sits at his desk in the Information Centre.
Photo by Stephen D'Orazio

He says the college is going to have a more "strategic approach" to recruitment.

"We are going to target more areas and broaden our scope of recruitment."

He says that it is possible U.S. and out-of-province recruitment will be undertaken in the future.

Conlon, 33, of St. Catharines, says this new position was created because "we are headed into a competitive market, and we may need to increase our enrolment."

"Our goal is to increase enrolment to 6,000 over the next five years."

'I've always had ideas for recruitment, but we (Niagara College) have never really had a body in place to make it happen.'

Conlon, who teaches a public relations course at Niagara College, says his new position will allow him to use some of his ideas he has had for recruitment.

"I've always had ideas for recruitment, but we (Niagara College) have never really had a body in place to make it happen."

He says the main difference between his old job and his new one is he will not be visiting schools. More of his time will be spent analyzing data.

Conlon says "the most enjoyable" part of his new job is looking at the data.

One of the many examples of this data is in 1999 the college sent a recruiter to Centre Wellington District High School (DHS), in Fergus, Ont., for the first time. In 2000 the college had four students from that high school enrolled.

"It might not excite a lot of people, but it excites me."

He said the example from Centre Wellington DHS is just one of many that "shows what we do is important and works."

Conlon says he is looking forward to seeing many things the college has wanted to do, for example, bringing back an open house.

"We want to increase our visibility across Ontario as a college."

ESL teacher born in America, Canadian 'by choice'

By NAUMAN FAROOQ
Staff Writer

Mother, wife, teacher and student — these are the current occupations of Nancy Marsman.

Marsman, 32, is from the United States, but lives in St. Catharines. She proudly says, "I'm American by birth but Canadian by choice." She holds dual citizenship because her husband is a Canadian citizen.

Marsman teaches a speaking class and two listening classes in the English as a Second Language (ESL) department at Niagara College.

In the listening class, she teaches English to new students who know little or no English. These are new students.

The listening class is more advanced as the students learn to take notes and comprehend longer sentences. She says students find spelling the hardest because it takes them time to learn how to properly sound a word.

Marsman is also finishing her Master of Education and Teaching English degree at Brock University.

She has worked at Brock University in the past and taught ESL at Beacon Christian High School in St. Catharines for four years.

A person of many interests, she says her first love is music. She has sung in an opera. She holds a bachelor of music degree from Camosun College, an associate of music degree from the Victoria Conservatory of Music, both in Victoria, B.C., and a degree in linguistics from Brock University in St. Catharines.

Unlike most ESL teachers, she has not travelled far abroad, though she has been all over the States, Canada and Mexico. She says she'd like to visit Africa "for its wildlife" and would like to see the Great Wall of China. Korea is on her wish list because, she says, she "loves Korean food."

Marsman's future plans include a move to Victoria in June. Her two and a half-year-old daughter, Jenneke, is her "in-laws' only grandchild" and she wants to be close to them.

Marsman might continue working as an ESL teacher in Victoria because her father in-law is an ESL teacher at the university there.

She is a member of Teaching English as a Second Language in Niagara (TESL Niagara). "Once you are a member here you automatically become a member of TESL Ontario and TESL Canada." However, she is thinking of returning to music and perhaps teaching that at the elementary school level.

NANCY MARSMAN

Does she know what it is like to learn another language?

Marsman said she has learned French, Italian, Spanish, Dutch and German and has tried to teach herself Japanese, but she doesn't speak any of them fluently and admits to "not remembering Japanese at all."

She will be leaving Niagara College this year. "I love my students. It's a great group and I'll miss them."

Welcome to...

The college is not responsible for the actions or the malfunctioning of the robotic arm.

First, we play for five bucks, then we take on the Supercomputer!

The flowers are nice any time of the year at the Horticultural Centre.

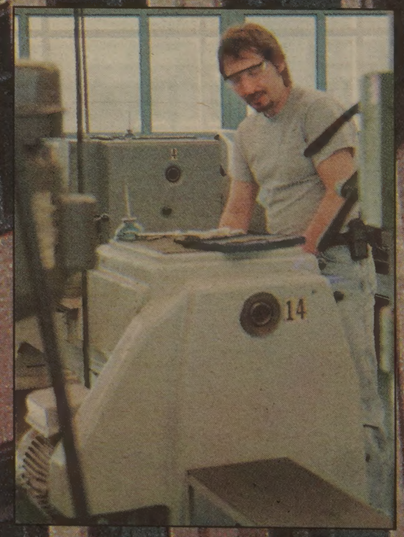
Serving up some 'beverages,' the Glendale pub Alexander Davidson's takes on a Valentine's Day theme.

Glendale campus offers a hi-tech education . . . and there are computers everywhere.

Photos By:

Kandis Thorsby

Dan D'Amico



Putting the pedal to the metal is not just talk around here.

...the Glendale Campus

EYE OF THE BEHOLDER

Welcome to paradise, welcome to Venice

By CALUM McNEIL
Staff Writer

The sound of violins wafts in through the alleyway as the crackling torches illuminate your way forward. You can hear the water of the Grand Canal lapping hypnotically off in the distance, and the warm breeze from it caresses your skin. This is Venice; this is paradise.

I went to Venice in the summer of 1998. It was just a three-day stopover in a five-week tour of Europe. This was a trip during which I visited London, Paris, Athens and Istanbul. Venice, however, was the only city I stayed in that completely lived up to my expectations, and even surpassed them.

Travelling Venice's watery canals by gondola is a popular tourist attraction.

Photo by Calum McNeil

My family and I arrived on the island by train, crossing the only land-link between the islands and the mainland. It was late in the afternoon and the air was warm and humid. My first real impression of Venice came when I had to hail a taxi to take my family to our hotel. There are no cars in Venice. You either walk or travel by boat. Our cab was a boat.

Travelling slowly through the myriad of canals that slice through Venice, I was surprised at how utterly different this place was from anywhere I'd been before. The buildings were all white or coral, their bases discoloured by seasonal flooding. People could be seen on the verandas of their homes overlooking the canals, sunning themselves and relaxing.

There were boats everywhere, transporting goods or just carrying tourists around the city. On the Grand Canal you could see massive cruise liners inching slowly towards port, ready to off-load the next horde of tourists for a visit. Sea birds were everywhere, as were the sounds of music and the smells of great food.

By the time we reached our hotel, unfortunately all I wanted to do was sleep.

The next two days were spent exploring the city and the surrounding islands. It quickly became obvious that Venice was a remarkable study in contrasts. Walking through narrow alleyways paved with cobblestone I encountered all the things I expected to find.

The buildings were all old and ornate. Some buildings were homes and others catered to tourists. What surprised me was to find a McDonald's housed in one of these medieval structures. It seemed a little out of place at first, or perhaps out of time, but it made me come to the realization of what I liked most about Venice. It is the way the city has adapted itself to the modern world without atrophying. Venice has moved forward as a real working city without compromising the culture and economy that make it so unique.

Venice is not a tourist trap; it is alive and culturally vital. While the main island of Rialto is where Venice's heavy industry and port are located, the surrounding islands contain industries all their own. I visited the island of Murano where the famous Venetian glass is made. I was able to watch craftsmen make the glass, colour it and shape it with tools. In just a few minutes these artists can take a ball of molten glass and create a figurine out of it. Their works are then sold in adjacent buildings and throughout the islands.

There are, of course, many historical sites to visit in Venice, St. Mark's Square being first amongst them. It contains the Doge's Palace. The Doge was the elected leader of Venice before it became part of Italy. The palace is huge and well preserved; it contains many beautiful paintings collected by the Doges over the centuries.

It is at night that Venice truly becomes one of the most beautiful places on Earth. Everywhere you look there are people dancing and drinking. All the alleyways are torchlit and music can be heard coming from every direction. It is at once intimate and overwhelming. Gondolas pass under arched bridges, lovers hold hands and the world seems right.

There are other memories from my short stay in Venice. I remember how the merchants would cool cans of pop by placing them on multi-layered stands and letting cold water cascade over them. Pigeons would shower under that same water as it splashed onto the street. I remember trying gelato, the Italian ice cream, and eating pasta on the bank of the Grand Canal with my Mom and sister.

We left Venice by ship for Turkey and Greece. As we crept through the islands on our way to the Adriatic I can remember thinking that of all the places I had been, Venice was the only one that had matched my expectations.

Paris was cold and the people were rude; London was familiar and not very exotic; Athens was hot and polluted.

Venice, however, Venice was perfect.

Venice is perfect.

Tattoos: an artistic 'lifestyle' with history

By COLLIN COULIS
Staff Writer

The most frequent question from "first tattoo" people is "will it hurt?"

"It hurts, but it's not like you're going to die; it's more of an aggravating pain," says Tim, who's been a tattoo artist for five years.

Tim, who goes only by his first name, is one of the artists at Heads Extreme Tattoos and Body Piercing in St. Catharines.

He says it was the "lifestyle" that attracted him to the world of tattooing. He says women were another major reason to "get into tattoos." He found the prospect of tattooing various parts of the female anatomy too cool to pass up.

"You don't get (women); you just see them," he says. Tim's quick to point out that tattooing isn't as glamorous as it sounds. He says the worst part of his job is the long hours — seven days a week, 12 hours a day.

In many ways tattooing is a trade like plumbing or carpentry; it's a skill passed on from master to apprentice. You don't become a tattoo artist overnight. Like any other trade there are tools, but instead of a hammer and nails, they are a tattoo gun and inks.

You have to make the person you're tattooing trust you, says Tim. Making the client relax, he says, helps to build trust.

"Laughter is the best medicine," he says, because it cuts the ice and helps create a relaxed atmosphere.

"We tend to look after our customers," he adds, stressing the importance of customer relations. "You have to show a certain amount of professionalism."

Modern tattooing was invented at the end of the 19th century, when Sam O'Reilly altered inventor Thomas Edison's electric engraving pen to create the first tattoo gun. The gun allowed tattoos to be completed with greater speed and accuracy than ever before.

From the back of a barbershop on the Bowery, in New York City, O'Reilly used his new invention to revolutionize the art form.

At the beginning of the 1900s many tattooed people travelled with carnivals and circus sideshows, often as the star attraction.

Public fascination waned, and the practice of tattooing almost died out until it was saved by the onslaught of the First World War.

At the beginning of the war, many young men rushed out to get patriotic symbols tattooed on their body. Soon, tattoo parlors began springing up next to army bases.

Alex Hunter, 22, a student in the Winery and Viticulture Technician program at Niagara College's Glendale campus, sits in the chair while Tim tattoos a large black tortoise on his back. This is Hunter's second tattoo. He got his first (also on his back) in October.

"I got to a point in my life where I wanted to declare my own body," says Hunter, explaining that self-expression was the main reason he got a tattoo. He says he used to be "into body piercing," but recently he became interested in tattoos. "You get to decorate your body in a beautiful way."

Hunter takes a deep breath as the needle from Tim's tattoo gun buzzes over his spine, completing a long, complicated line.

"It's cool when they go over your spine because it sends a sensation over your entire body," says Hunter.

"It's like sex without the good part," jokes Tim.

The word tattoo comes from the Tahitian word "tatau," which means to mark something.

Tattooing is an ancient art form practiced, at one time or another, by almost every culture on the face of the globe. In ancient times, many cultures attached religious significance to marking the body. Tattoos were often used in rituals.

One of the oldest examples of the art form was discovered in 1991, in the Italian Alps near the Austrian border, when the preserved body of a 5,000-year-old man was found in a glacier by two mountain climbers.

It was discovered that the Neolithic man had a cross-shaped marking on one of his knees and a series of lines near one of his kidneys. Some scientists have speculated that the man's tattoos suggest he may have been a shaman or spiritual healer.

Niagara College student Alex Hunter gets tattooed by Tim from Heads Extreme Tattoo and Body Piercing in St. Catharines.

Photo by Collin Coulis

Tattoos have also been discovered on the mummies of Egyptian priestesses dating back to 2000 BC.

It was once believed that only criminals got tattoos, but that has changed. Today, tattoos are common and more popular than ever. People from all walks of life enjoy this special kind of self-expression.

INSIDE POLITICS

Thorold's mayor encourages 'open door policy,' volunteering, community involvement

By JENNIFER CHORNLEY
Staff Writer

The old school building at 8 Carlton St. S. was once a place of learning and animated discussion. Today as Thorold's City Hall, it's where municipal councillors learn what it takes to run a city.

You can imagine where the principal's office, the washrooms and the classrooms were.

Upstairs where chalk writing scrawled across blackboards, the committee meeting rooms, council chambers and the public works' office reside.

Sitting on the mayor's dark brown desk is a computer and monitor. This mayor is the first mayor to have a computer in the office. Completed paperwork and projects in the works sit in neat piles.

Behind the desk is a smiling, bubbly woman in her early 40s with short, thick blond hair and blue eyes. A nearby window allows light to enter. It's unusually warm and bright January day.

The mayor is wearing a dark blue plaid jacket, a cream-coloured classic blouse, with dark blue, almost black, pants. Her glasses are perched on top of her head. It looks to be a relaxed time with no calls or complaints from Thorold's residents.

Robin Davidson is Thorold's first female, full-time mayor and says she is happy to hold that title.

Davidson, beaming, says, "It feels wonderful. I don't know how else to say it. Just being called Thorold's mayor feels wonderful. This is something I have wanted to do for a while. It's truly an honour, beyond anything else I could think of.

"To be Thorold's first female mayor, it shows times have changed and women's roles have changed, and society is starting to accept that. It's challenging sometimes still, but I am very, very proud to be Thorold's first female mayor."

Davidson is secure in herself, she says "because for 42 (years of age) I don't feel any older than I did when I was 22. I think I feel younger because I have less stress," she laughs.

Explaining how her family feels about her being one of the most influential people in the city and region, she says, "My family, gee, talk about getting emotional. My father is this high (holding her hand aloft parallel to the floor). He is this tall (her hand soars toward the ceiling), but he is this high off the ground. I have never seen him that proud of anybody, and that means a lot.

> ***'To be Thorold's first female mayor, it shows times have changed . . .' – Robin Davidson***

"But more than that my sons are really proud of me.

"It's a wonderful feeling because you don't see them as really seeing it. They knew what it took to get me here and they know how much work I put into it and they have seen the dedication. They have been part of it since they were small children."

Davidson says she never imagined she'd become mayor. It was only in the past five years she thought the opportunity would come.

"Mainly because it's financially difficult. The mayor's salary for Thorold is only $16,000 a year. I felt for a number of years that Thorold needs a full-time mayor."

Before running, Davidson put her finances in place. The additional salary she receives as Thorold's regional councillor "helped tremendously" as well.

Elected into office as mayor was something Davidson says she considered "out of my reach," mainly because she is a single parent and sole provider for her family. For nine years, Davidson worked a demanding 60 hours a week at ComCare Health Services, in addition to her council duties.

Davidson describes her personality. "Well, I'm very happy. Generally, I try to see that good side of things. I feel that I'm a compassionate person. I am enthusiastic, outgoing. I am a little bold, outspoken and opinionated, but on the other side, I think I am a very understanding and compassionate person. I have a lot of passion."

Former mayor Tim Kenny describes Davidson's personality as "very friendly, easy to work with" and when she is discussing an issue she can be "persistent" about her position.

In addition, he says their working relationship was good. When she represented regional council in Kenny's last term as mayor, they almost never had the "problem of disagreement."

Kenny says with Davidson's 12 years' experience in city and regional council, it gives her the knowledge of the issues. He says, "I am sure she will do a good job."

Niagara Centre MP Tony Tirabassi worked with Davidson on Thorold city council. He describes her personality as "welcoming." He says when she sees a person she will "light up with a smile" and the person will know he or she can discuss the problem at ease. "She is bubbly, but at the same time she is very serious."

The environment is one issue Tirabassi says he knows Davidson will be "sensitive" about. She knows the importance of development but also knows the importance of the environment itself, he says.

Davidson commented on her own expertise. "Although I have been doing this for a long time, things have changed on a regular basis, so it's nice to have that front-end training. I couldn't imagine doing this (being mayor of Thorold) without having many years on council, as well as going to the region.

"I think you have to sit at the region to see the global picture and look at the world from the outside and see it how everyone else sees it."

Davidson says politics is "constantly changing. In the last 12 years, I've seen endless change in how we have structured ourselves, and, as I said earlier, it is an ongoing learning experience.

"I think that's why I enjoy it so much because there is always something new and you are always trying to figure out how to handle the next situation and you never know what it's going to be. It's very unique and that's what is stimulating."

Davidson's personal goals are to have council become more involved with the community and to encourage more volunteer participation.

With Davidson as Thorold's first full-time mayor she's encouraging an "an open-door policy."

Thorold Mayor Robin Davidson looks out the window of a City of Thorold work truck.

Photo by Jennifer Chornley

If Davidson is successful in her first term as mayor, she says she will run again.

"I wouldn't start this with the intention of doing only one term. It takes one full term to really get a good handle on everything and it takes more than three years, from start to finish, to complete any major projects.

"My hope is that if I do a good job over the next three years that the people will be happy with me. If I don't, of course, then that's another story. My intention is to be more than a one-term mayor."

Tirabassi agrees with Davidson. "It is an exciting time for the city" since there are a lot of projects under way.

Davidson says she was happier at city council than regional council. "I enjoyed regional council, but not as much as city council. But definitely it's an experience you must have before running for a mayor's position."

Davidson commends Thorold's new city council, stating, "I couldn't have handpicked this council better myself. This is a tremendous group of people. There is so much enthusiasm. They are professional (and) knowledgeable about the community; they have been involved in organizations and activities in the last few years. They are an exceptional group of people."

Tirabassi says Davidson will be able "to gel the council and bring it together. She will nurture and gel it, (and) then move ahead as a cohesive group."

Davidson agrees this council is "one of the best-looking councils" she has seen. "Nobody came in with hidden agendas." She points out that councils in the past have been fragmented because of a lack of teamwork.

Davidson says she has learned a lot. Married at 19, she says, "I don't recommend it. Too young. I think you need to do a lot more. I went to Niagara College, but I didn't finish my degree in anything."

Undecided on her career choice, she enrolled in some courses. Halfway through completion she changed her mind. "Of course, I have always worked full time and been doing courses at night."

There is little Davidson would change. "To be honest, I have been very lucky (in life)."

"Getting married young, in a lot of cases, doesn't work out, for that very reason, but I got two wonderful sons out of that marriage. I don't have any regrets about it."

Some of Davidson's hobbies include boating, skidooing in the winter and canoeing. She has a summer fishpond in her back yard, now in her basement for the winter. She is an advanced scuba diver.

Davidson is attending Niagara College to learn Italian because of Thorold's high Italian population. She plans also to learn French and Spanish.

"For 20 years it feels like I have had a night course or a class. Never stop learning; I think it is really important. Learning is important. That might not be a university degree, that's not going for your BA (bachelor of arts). I think no matter how old you are learning. You never stop learning."

Davidson's goals for Thorold and the region during the next three years include redevelopment

- She wants to develop a strategy to recruit more physicians into the Thorold area, some sort of consensus plan to get them here.
- Since Thorold has maintained a pay-as-you-go policy Davidson would like to develop a debt financing and venture financing policy.
- Initiating community projects continue to go on the backburner. If the town runs into problems with infrastructure then moving ahead is impossible. If it is a 30-year project, then the project can be paid for over time by the users.
- Problems with dirty drinking water have to be dealt with this year even though it is a costly project.
- The Region must deal with transportation issues in all forms.
- Thorold should review and possibly redevelopment, taxation policies.
- She suggests the Region needs shared services such as insurance pooling and solicitors.
- She suggests that the numbers of members at Regional Council go under review, since there has been no review in 30 years.

ROAD WARRIOR

Porsche stuns crowd at auto show

By NAUMAN FAROOQ
Staff Writer

Last week, we gave you an A to M look at this year's North American International Auto Show which took place in Detroit. This week is the completion of last week's article. Here is a look at N to Z at the auto show.

N is for Nissan, which introduced its hot rod version of the Sentra sedan called the SE-R. This tiny runabout has a 180 hp, four-cylinder engine, which should turn this into a pocket rocket. No prices are announced yet, but I have a feeling it'll be a bargain for the performance it will deliver.

O is for Oldsmobile, which despite having recently been pronounced dead by General Motors, still kept a brave face. It not only launched its new Bravada suv, but also showed a concept car called the O4. What's the point? Just admit that the company is dead. Why try to generate some interest by introducing a concept car?

P is for Porsche, which for me had the best stand at the show. No, it didn't have any gimmicks like cars suspended by wires, but it had two very hot new cars. First is the 911 GT2. This road-going version of the 911 racecar will be a monster on the road. Imagine 462 hp from a twin turbo engine, powering only the rear wheels. This car isn't for sissies.

Porsche also showed a truly spectacular Carrera GT concept car. Porsche has announced that the Carrera GT will go into limited production. At a price tag around $550,000, it is worth it though, for the sound its magnificent engine makes alone. How does 550 hp from a V10 sound to you? You heard right, a 10-cylinder engine in a two-seat, open-top roadster. Porsche, don't forget to invite me for a test drive.

Q is for Qvale, which had reserved a stand at the show, but was a no-show. I was disappointed. I was looking forward to seeing the Mangusta.

R is for Rolls Royce, who had the most expensive hair dryer at the show, a $529,000 Corniche convertible. It has a 6.75 litre, V8 engine producing around 325 hp. This car isn't about speed, but about class. Cars don't come much classier than a drop-top Roller.

S is for Subaru, which had the new Impreza WRX at the show. Finally, the North American customers can buy the turbo version of the Impreza. With 227 hp from a four-cylinder turbo engine, it sounds like fun to me. The all-wheel drive system will also help keep you on the road, rain or shine.

S is also for Saleen, better known for customizing Mustangs, but now it has entered the Supercar world on its own with a new S7. This 550 hp supercar gets its power from a seven-litre V8 engine. The car is said to top out at around 350 km/h. It is fast but comfortable thanks to a wonderful interior. Price? Around $600,000.

Porsche showed its stunning Carrera GT concept car. This two-seat roadster promises to be the fastest open-top car in the world, once it goes into production. With a 550 hp, V10 engine taken from a Le Mans racer, this car goes and sounds like a true race car. If you want one, start saving for it will cost about $550,000.

Photo by Nauman Farooq

Don't have that much money? Don't fret because Saleen can still sell you modified Mustangs from as low as $45,000, in the shape of the S281 coupe (280 hp). You can go all out with the supercharged S281 Speedster (350 hp), but then you're looking at spending around $75,000. These Mustangs look and perform far better than a regular Mustang so they are worth the money if you like your sports cars American and fast.

OK, **T**-time now. No, I don't mean what the British like to drink, but T is for Thunderbird. After the embarrassing Thunderbirds of the 1980s and 1990s, Ford looked back to the glory days of the Thunderbird, and decided to model its new car after the 1955 original. To design it, Ford hired the same man who gave us the new Volkswagen Beetle. Therefore, the styling, in my opinion, is stunning. It has elegance that I never thought a Ford brand car could ever have. Sadly, the interior stylist were far less enthusiastic about the job and took every dash panel and button they could out of the Lincoln LS8. It might be pretty on the outside, but the interior is a huge disappointment. The fabulous four-litre V8, which churns out 250 hp (also from the Lincoln LS8), will ensure you keep your eye more on the road than the interior. All in all, the glory days of the Thunderbird are back. Long live the T-bird.

U is for ultra-low emissions. Honda and Toyota are the first automakers to capitalize on this by introducing gas-electric hybrid vehicles. First out was the Honda Insight, which is like an eco-sports car. It is a two-door, two-seater, which might not be very practical, but then the car does give you 129 km/gallon, an amazing figure. Toyota's Prius is a four-door sedan on the same concept, making it as practical as a Corolla. Its rating of 110 km/gallon might not be as good as the Honda's, but it is more user friendly. The Honda, at $28,000, and the Toyota, at $33,000, show these cars certainly aren't very cheap. You must admit though, the savings in fuel are phenomenal, and you're saving the environment too.

V is for Volvo, which not only introduced its new S60 sport sedan, but also a very stylish and practical concept car called the SCC. SCC stands for Safety Concept Car, so you can guess this car is full of safety features. If I start listing all the safety features, I'm afraid I'd start writing a book. All you should know is, if you were to take a concept car out of this year's auto show, just for the sake of crashing it but causing no harm to yourself, this would be it.

W is for Willys, as in the Jeep Willys. The Willys became very popular in the 1940s with its role in the Second World War. This modern-day concept shows what the Willys would look like if it were produced today. I thought it looked weird and ugly, but then, so was the original. Chances of production for this car are nil, thank goodness.

X is for BMW's sport activity vehicle called the X5. At the show, BMW unveiled the new HP version of the X5. HP stands for High Performance. This X5 had sports suspension, fat alloy wheels, sport radial tires, and lowered ground clearance. Why this stuff is on an off-road vehicle is beyond me. After all, this stuff would not be very useful for off-road driving. In fact, it would make it terrible. I think BMW lost its head with this one. Back to the drawing boards for you folks.

Y is for yuck. The award for ugliness went to Isuzu for the GBX concept SUV. No wonder Isuzu had the nicest models at the show. It needed all the help it could get to attract the crowd.

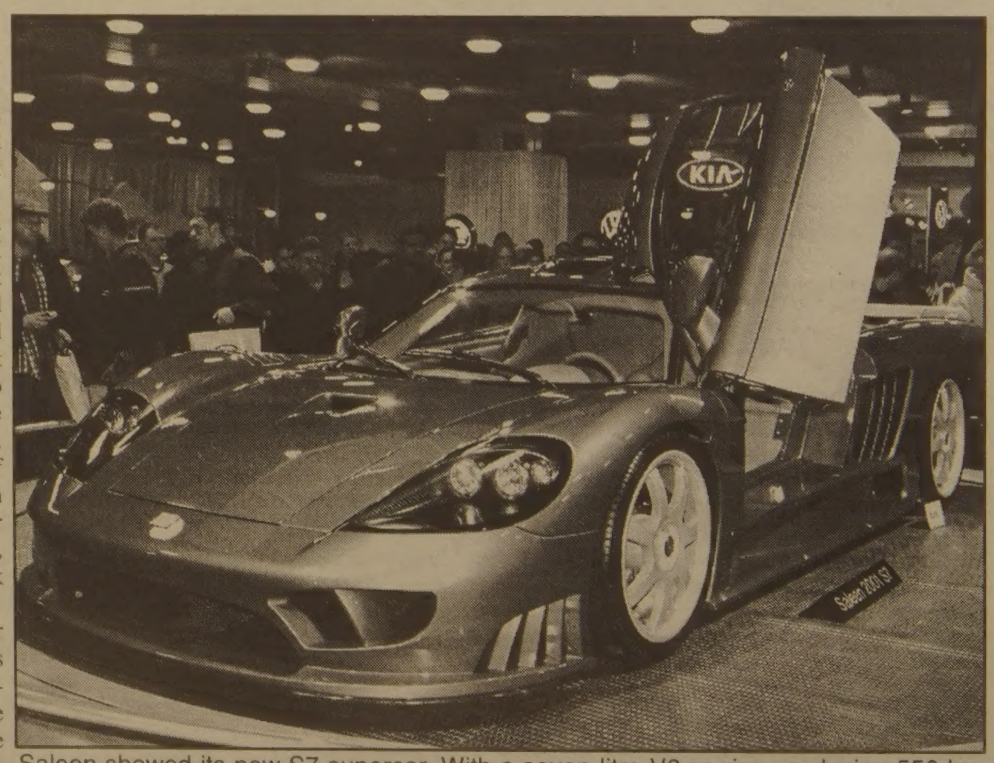
Finally, it's time for **Z**. Z stands for two cars: the new Nissan Z-concept and the BMW Z8.

First, Nissan is saying the Z-concept is not just a meaningless concept car, but, in fact, you'd be able to buy a Z in 18 months' time that would look identical to this car. The looks are controversial; they aren't to everyone's liking. The 3.5 litre V6, producing 260 hp from either a five-speed automatic or a six-speed manual gearbox, powering the rear wheels, would keep any sports car enthusiast happy. I can't wait to try one out.

Z is also for the BMW Z8. This car was introduced last year and was a huge success, so much so that the entire allocation of 200 cars for Canada for a four-year period has been sold out. This car has future classic written all over it.

BMW also had a wonderful show stand for the Z8, hanging the car's body and chassis structure on the wall in three different stages of construction, showing what the car's structure looks like. The structure looks amazing, but then so does the car. No wonder James Bond drove one in *The World is Not Enough*. The 400 hp V8 also helped him evade terrorists.

That's it for this year's Detroit Auto Show. Enjoy.



Saleen showed its new S7 supercar. With a seven-litre V8 engine producing 550 hp, it certainly has what it takes to compete with the European supercar makers, but at a price higher than the European offerings, it'll be a hard sell.

Photo by Nauman Farooq

HEALTH WATCH

Alcohol more dangerous than people think

By TERRI LYNN LeBLANC
Staff Writer

It's Sunday morning; you wake up with a massive hangover. You have no idea where you are or who is lying beside you. You can't remember what time you left the bar or when you got there or how you got there. All you remember is how many drinks you had before you left to go to the bar.

If this scenario sounds familiar to you, you may have a drinking problem.

Alcohol is a depressant. It slows down the brain's ability to think and make decisions and judgments. Many people do not realize that alcohol is a drug. It's use can become an addiction, control a person's life and cause some severe side effects.

Some common short-term side effects are drowsiness, dizziness and flushing.

Drinking heavily can cause some serious long-term side effects, such as stomach ulcers, liver disease and possibly cancer. When alcohol is consumed, it goes directly to the stomach and passes through the small intestine, where it is absorbed into the bloodstream. It takes about 30 seconds for the first amount of alcohol to reach the brain and act on the nerve cells.

After a few drinks one may not feel drunk, but already some co-ordination is lost.

It is difficult to state the number of drinks it will take to make a person intoxicated. The number varies with each person, depending on body weight, body chemistry, previous drinking history, and if the person has had something to eat.

Heavy drinking and binge drinking are considered to be a drinking problem, or alcoholism.

Alcoholism is a chronic disease. There are three theories to explain alcoholism.

The genetic theory defines alcoholism as a result of a given reaction to alcohol because of chromosomes and genes.

The psychological theory defines alcoholism as a condition that exists in people who have a predetermined personality that sets off a reaction to alcohol.

The sociological theory defines alcoholism as an addiction that is a result of the society's influence.

Alcohol acts as an irritant and increases the amount of hydrochloric acid in the stomach lining. Consuming a large amount of alcohol can cause the digestive process to stop, depriving the body of vitamins and minerals.

Alcoholism can cause serious medical conditions. When alcohol is consumed, the liver is diverted from maintaining the sugar level that is trying to rid the body of alcohol. The brain is unable to function properly because it does not have enough energy.

After a few drinks one may not feel drunk, but already some co-ordination is lost.

Cirrhosis of the liver is a disease in which liver cells are damaged and build up scar tissue. One in 10 long-term heavy drinkers develops cirrhosis of the liver and have a life expectancy of about five years once it is present.

Heart disease causes a rise in blood pressure, increasing the risk of heart attack or stroke. Even two drinks a day can weaken the heart's functioning.

Not only does alcohol create serious medical conditions, but it also affects the person's conduct. Alcoholics can become abusive and enraged, and they can be a threat to society, especially when they drink and drive.

Next time you're having a drink, stop and think about what you could be doing to your body and how is it affecting the way you act. Just because you think you are having a good time, and it's only a few drinks, you need to have control over the amount of alcohol you consume. You could be in a lot more danger than you think.

Therapeutic recreation a growing profession

By TARA FORD
Staff Writer

It's a personal satisfaction. Stacey Solvason, 20, says she enjoys "working with individuals and watching them progress."

Solvason, of Grimsby, Ont., is in her second year of the Recreation and Leisure Services program at the Welland campus of Niagara College.

In the program there are opportunities for students to specialize in two areas: community development and therapeutic recreation.

Next week is Therapeutic Recreation Awareness week. Therapeutic recreation uses recreation services and leisure experiences to help people with physical, emotional, mental and social limitations to make the most of their lives, for example, elderly people who are suffering with Alzheimer disease, stroke and brain injuries. People who have Parkinson's disease or who suffer with addictions can be helped too.

Therapeutic recreation may be used to improve physical abilities, build confidence, promote greater self-reliance, manage stress and ease fear.

Christine Wilkinson, recreation and leisure services teacher, said the programs and services are used to enhance quality of life and are geared towards what the person can do and meet individual needs.

Many employment opportunities are available in therapeutic recreation in hospitals, long-term care facilities, correctional and mental health facilities, rehabilitation facilities, day programs, day hospitals and community agencies such as The March of Dimes and the Association for Community Living.

Solvason decided to pursue this field following an enjoyable high school placement at the West Lincoln Memorial Hospital in Grimsby. She assisted the therapeutic recreation specialist with individual programs and large group special events. She enjoys "watching them (people) achieve a goal they have set."

It takes a certain type of personality to get into therapeutic recreation. Solvason commented that you should be compassionate, empathetic, goal-oriented, outgoing, energetic and creative and have an ability to motivate people.

In Solvason's program there are four placements over the two years, one for each semester. The first placement is doing volunteer work at various places. Her second one was at the Senior Day Program in Grimsby where she helped implement "recreation programs for clients." The third, which she is doing now, is at Ina Grafton Gage Village in St. Catharines where she "runs daily resident programs."

It's a personal satisfaction 'working with individuals . . .' – Stacey Solvason

Solvason said she hopes to attend Brock University, in St. Catharines, afterwards to obtain the Recreation and Leisure Studies degree. Niagara College has an articulation agreement with Brock so she will have only two more semesters to complete at university.

Wilkinson said therapeutic recreation is a new profession but there is not much understanding of what it is yet. It is "the 12th fastest growing profession in the United States." She said that evidence shows similar Canadian results.

For more information, contact Wilkinson at ext. 7461 or Judy Halaiko, recreation and leisure services program co-ordinator.

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The 'Leave the Pack Behind' name for this program has been adopted, with permission, from the World Health Organization's 1999 World No Tobacco day campaign.

Created by: Catherine Leblanc & Erika Stelbelt, Queen's University

NIAGARA ROCKS

Newmarket's clarknova rock After Hours

By STEPHEN D'ORAZIO
Staff Writer

On Student Appreciation Day, the students who filled the After Hours pub showed their appreciation to one of Canada's hottest bands.

clarknova, a five-piece band from Newmarket, Ont., shook the After Hours pub at the Niagara College Welland campus with an hour-long set of intense and original brand of hard rock.

Not only did clarknova play songs off their newest CD, **Host**, but the band also did a cover of the Nine Inch Nails song *Head Like a Hole* to

the delight of the students that made it out to the noon show on Jan. 25.

Throughout the show the band continually hit, pushed and pulled each other's hair. A half-hearted fight between lead singer Steve Kulba and guitarist Greg Caines eventually erupted during their last song.

Kulba pushed the guitar player, causing Caines to fall over his own feet. He got up from the ground with a mischievous smile on his face, ripped off his guitar and lunged at Kulba.

They rolled around on the ground together for a couple of minutes. The only casualties of this fight were the water bottles they emptied on each other.

It was obvious that both were not angry with each other, but if you had just walked in at the time the fight was happening, I'm sure you would have thought you were witnessing a real band brawl.

clarknova is Kulba, lead vocals, Caines, guitar, Scott Wilson, guitar and vocals, Chris Ferguson, bass and vocals, and John Lord, drums.

According to the band's homepage (www.clarknovaonline.com) Kulba, Caines and Wilson started a band called Tribal Stomp. They had a self-titled CD and two videos on MuchMusic.

In 1997 Ferguson was added after Tribal Stomp's bass player left. In 1998 Lord joined the group. With the addition of the two new members, the band decided to change its name, as not only the line-up changed, but also the sound.

clarknova will be at Stages in Kitchener, Ont., on Feb. 16 and at The Foundation in Barrie, Ont., on Feb. 17. Both shows are with Rubberman and Cleavage.

Above, clarknova's Steve Kulba, lead vocals, and Greg Caines rock After Hours last Thursday, with an "intense" set of hard rock.

Photo by Collin Coulis

At left, clarknova bassist Chris Ferguson.
Photo by Clinton Haggart

Hennessey warms ears with its music at pub

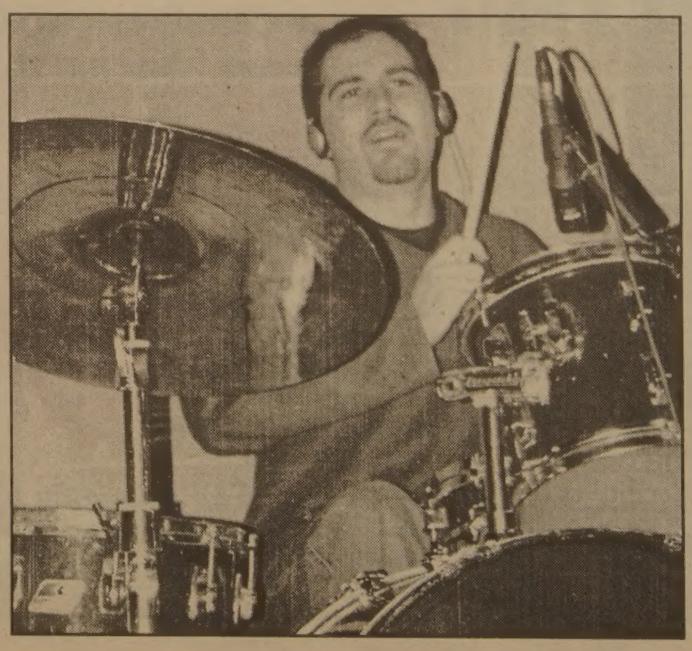
By RYAN McLAUGHLIN
Staff Writer

Set your dials to the FM. Hennessey is hitting a radio wave near you.

The Toronto-based band played to a lunch-hour crowd at After Hours, Niagara College's pub at the Welland campus, Wednesday.

Filling the room with a "radio friendly" pop sound, the members of Hennessey proved they could take their album and animate it.

Though the disc **Life on AM Radio** doesn't hit stores until Feb. 27, the band has just finished the North by Northeast Roadshow to promote it. Hitting over a half dozen colleges and university venues in Ontario, Hennessey played with Staggered Crossing and Plasticine.



Pamela Brennan, lead vocals for the band, spoke with the *Niagara News* on the topic of the album, saying, "(I'm) so proud of it," adding she is "really anxious" for it to hit stores.

For a band with a natural quality and no sign of pretentiousness, their pop brand music glows and warms the ears.

It is comfortable music for Friday nights or Sunday afternoons. The only place this band doesn't belong is on AM radio.

As the band played song after song from the album, it wasn't hard to close your eyes and picture yourself in a huge venue with thousands of screaming fans jumping in rhythm to the smiling sound that *is* Hennessey.

Brennan, with her elfish cuteness, used her beautiful voice to control the stage while being brilliantly backed by the harmonies of Rory Dyck and Shaun Noronha.

You would never know that the band's drummer, Romano DiNillo, joined the band just over a month ago. With a solo recording background, DiNillo says he's never done "a hell of a lot of live stuff." Coming from a very diverse musical background, "this is all new" to him.

Hennessey is a solid band on and off the stage, rocking through high-powered songs like *Cosmonaut*, then cruising into more soulful melodies like *Miles of Green*, which, Brennan says "has the most emotion" for her because it's "such a heavy song."

Watch for Hennessey March 12 on Open Mike with Mike Bullard, 10 p.m. on the Comedy Network, and midnight on CTV.

At left, Hennessey drummer Romano DiNillo. At right, Hennessey lead vocalist Pamela Brennan plays for After Hours on Wednesday.

Photos by Ryan McLaughlin

ENTERTAINMENT

Newsted leaves Metallica after 14 years

By MATT WATLING
Staff Writer

San Francisco rock band Metallica announced on Jan. 17 that bassist Jason Newsted would be leaving the quartet after 14 years.

In a press release issued by the band, Newsted said, "Due to private and personal reasons, and the physical damage that I have done to myself over the years while playing music that I love, I must step away from the band."

Newsted joined Metallica in the fall of 1986, after the death of former bassist Cliff Burton. He previously played in a band called Flotsam and Jetsam.

In Newsted's career with Metallica he was part of six albums, including **Re-Load**, **Garage Inc**. and **S&M**. Those three albums sold over 55 million copies worldwide. He was part of the highly acclaimed self-titled album, as well as **And Justice for All** and **Load**.

"This is the most difficult decision of my life, made in the best interest of my family, myself, and the continued growth of Metallica," said Newsted. "I extend my love, thanks, and best wishes to my brothers James, Lars and Kirk and the rest of the Metallica family, friends, and fans whom have made these years so unforgettable."

Lead singer James Hetfield said, "Playing with someone who has such unbridled passion for music will forever be a huge inspiration. On stage every night, he was a driving force to us all, fans and band alike."

Newsted played more than 1,000 shows with the five-time Grammy Award winning band. Hetfield said that Newsted's connection with the band would never be broken.

"We part ways with Jason with more love, more mutual respect, and more understanding of each other than at any other point in the past. James, Kirk and I look forward to embracing the next new chapter of Metallica," said drummer Lars Ulrich.

Kirk Hammett, the other remaining member of the band, simply said, "Jason is our brother. He will be missed."

With no immediate replacement, Metallica will be busy in the upcoming months. Nominated for Best Rock Instrumental Performance at the Feb. 21 Grammy Awards, Metallica looks to secure yet another award. *The Call of Ktulu* from the **S&M** album is the song nominated for a Grammy this year. Competing in this category against Metallica are Phish, Peter Frampton, Joe Satriani and Kenny Wayne Shepherd.

Metallica plans to begin writing and recording a new album, with the release coming in late 2001 or early 2002.

Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon a martial arts fantasy

By COLLIN COULIS
Staff Writer

Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon is different from most Asian films released in the West.

Don't expect to see the clichéd, out-of-sync English dubbing that so often appears in kung fu films. Instead, the film retains its original Mandarin dialogue, and sub-titles are used to keep those of us who don't speak it clued in.

If you don't like to read sub-titles, or can't keep up with them, see a different movie. This one's not for you.

Chow Yun-Fat (Anna and the King, The Replacement Killers) stars as Li Mu Bai, a heroic warrior who decides to turn his back on his violent past and give up his mystic sword — the Green Destiny.

When the sword is stolen by a nobleman's teenage daughter, Li Mu Bai teams with a female warrior, Shu Lien, played by Michelle Yeoh (Tomorrow Never Dies), in an effort to recover the enchanted blade. A series of intense, high-energy battles occur as the pair track a ruthless assassin across 19th century China.

The fight scenes in this film, although spectacular, are so stylized and far from reality, they don't seem violent. Characters dance their way through fights, walk up walls, fly through the air and unleash amazing spin-kick combinations thanks to the same "wire-work" effects used in the Matrix.

Director Ang Lee (Ride with the Devil, Sense and Sensibility) transfers the book by Du Lu Wang to the big screen. The result is an epic martial arts fantasy remarkably different from the typical Jackie Chan punch-outs we usually see in North America.

Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon has strong romantic sub-plots that give it a three-dimensional quality usually missing in the cardboard genre of the kung fu movie.

Lee has pushed the boundaries of the typical martial arts film and expanded the genre by fusing action with romance and fantasy. It's unfair to label this film as a kung fu movie. It's a fairy tale with martial arts thrown in.

Fans crave more Snatch, as movie enjoys critical success

By KEVIN HARTFORD
Staff Writer

The plot of Snatch, the new film from director Guy Ritchie, goes something like this.

Compulsive gambler Franky Four Fingers steals an 84-carat diamond for his boss, Avi, but gets set up by a man named Boris The Blade to be robbed at a bookie's by three small-time crooks. Meanwhile, two down-on-their-luck boxing promoters, Turkish and Tommy, owe local crimelord Brick Top, a boxer willing to take the fall in the fourth round of an illegal boxing match. The only boxer they can find is Irish gypsy Mickey O'Neil, who refuses to do as he's told.

Naturally, all hell breaks loose and nothing goes as planned for anyone involved, and quite a lot of people get shot.

Snatch is director Guy Ritchie's follow-up to his 1998 film, Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels. While it's not exactly a departure from his earlier film in style or storyline, you're not likely to care. It's a fun and entertaining ride, and it moves at breakneck speed. Some of the plot may be hard to follow, and some of the supporting characters' names will be easily forgotten, but it's doubtful you'll notice.

Some of the notable characters are Benicio Del Toro's Franky, who carries the stolen diamond in a briefcase attached to his wrist and ends up, well, suffering the fate of a man with his wrist attached to a briefcase containing an 84-carat diamond; Dennis Farina's Cousin Avi, who really, really hates flying to England; Vinnie Jones's Bullet Tooth Tony, who can be shot six times and still be angry enough to kill his would-be assassin; Brad Pitt's "One-Punch" Mickey, who loves his mom and knows how to hold a grudge; and Stephen Graham's Tommy, a sidekick character who steals the show.

If you like guns, crime, twins, carnivorous pigs, and dogs with squeaky toys in their stomachs, designer caravans and lots and lots of swearing, see Snatch. See it twice.

Gordon Munro, 34, takes an opportunity Jan. 23 to use the Mac Lab in the Journalism-Print newsroom. Originally from Uppingham, a small town in a small county of England, Munro is in Canada on holiday, and needed to use an Apple computer. On the recommendation of a friend who's a student of Niagara, he turned to the college for help. Seeking employment in the production and design field, Munro plans to explore his options in Canada and south of the border.

Photo by Ryan McLaughlin.

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THE REVIVAL HOUR
MONDAYS @ 2:30
Matt Burg featuring an hour of your
Favourite Christian Hit Music

As submitted by CRNC

WOMEN IN ACTION

Women's volleyball team improves to 4-4

By JOËL D. HERRINGTON
Staff Writer

The Niagara Knights women's volleyball team improved to 4-4 with a three-game sweep of the Nipissing Lakers on Jan. 26 at home. They stand third in the West Region standings.

"We meshed as a team 100 per cent today," says assistant coach Laura Chatterton. "We passed really well and our defence was great."

The last time Niagara faced Nipissing was in November, when they were hammered three straight games. This time around, the Knights were looking for revenge.

"I felt it was a clutch game just because we've already played them once and they beat us," says head coach Carolyn Welden. "They're not at all the same team we played the first time around."

Along with the deterioration of Nipissing's performance, the Knights have improved theirs. "In practice, we've really been concentrating on our defensive game," says Welden. "We're gelling now."

Although the games were close, Niagara triumphed over the second place Lakers with scores of 25-19, 25-22 and 25-21. Leading the way for the Knights' offence was 20-year-old Diane VandenHoven. She nailed 15 kills and posted two stuff blocks. "She was on fire," says Chatterton. Middles Thais Aun and Nicole Carleton-Burnham were equally impressive, as they contributed with 15 and 11 points respectively.

It is evident that Welden and Chatterton's team has turned things around. They have won four of their last five matches, which moves them to third in the West Region.

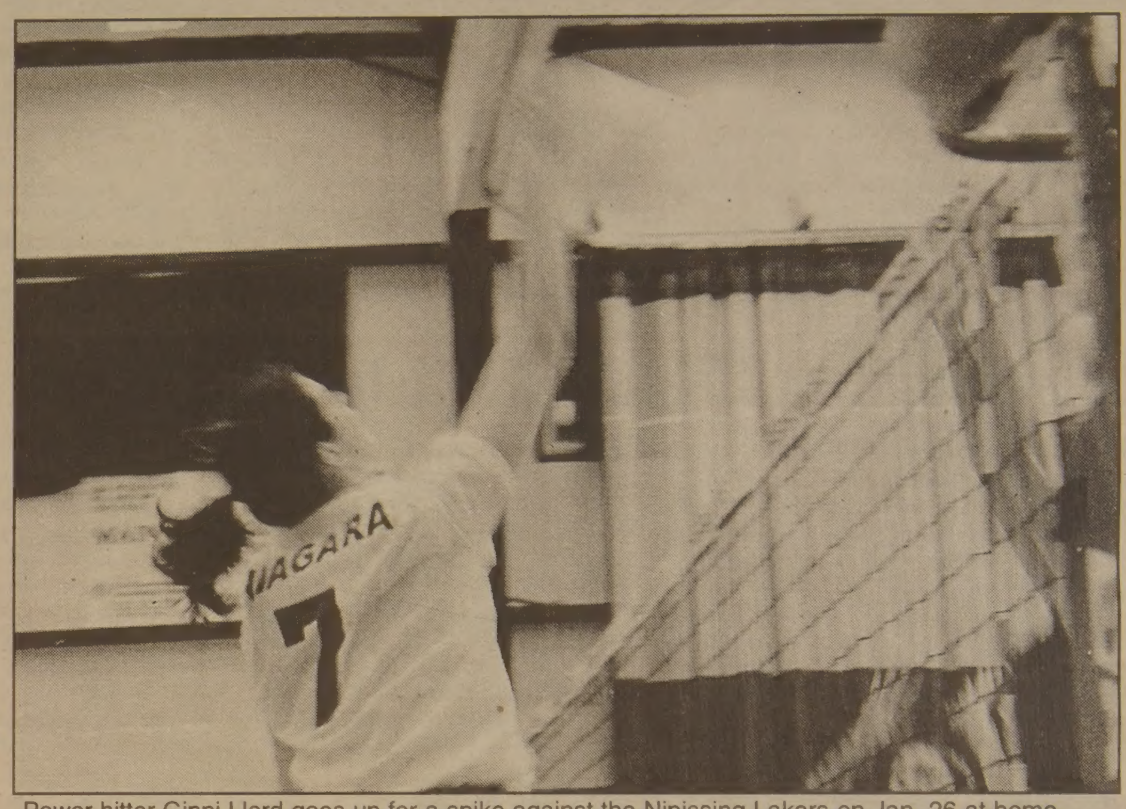
"Traditionally, over the past six years, my team's always been a late-peaking team," says Welden. The Knights appear to have improved with their confidence and focus on the court. "You can still see the scramble, but it's getting better."

Lindsay Kelly, 25, is a first-year player, enrolled in the Geographical Information Systems (Post-graduate) program. She says the team has learned to "gel" to achieve success.

"We now know each other's strengths and weaknesses." In regard to her personal performance, Kelly says, "There's lots of serving in practices and I've been working hard on it."

The Knights have chosen a good time to better their quality of play. With six matches left in the season, the battle for a playoff spot has begun. Chatterton says losing the first three matches "killed" the team.

"Before, we'd make more errors and that's how other teams would win. Working on our skills in practice is definitely paying off in our games."



Power hitter Ginni Llord goes up for a spike against the Nipissing Lakers on Jan. 26 at home.
Photo by Joël D. Herrington

Niagara will be playing five of their final six matches on the road. Although they've lost all of their road games, Welden says they traditionally do well and put out a good effort. Fifty per cent of the matches will be against weaker teams, yet she says, "You can never take any team for granted," adding proper sleep, physical training and nutrition are important for a successful road trip.

If the Knights wish to continue their winning ways, Chatterton says her team must focus on getting a lead and preserving it during crunch time.

"It's just mental focus, but we're progressively getting better at it. The mistakes are few and far between."

The next home game for Niagara won't be until Feb. 16, when they face Mohawk College, of Hamilton. Kelly says she doesn't like playing on the road, but expects her team to succeed. "I think we'll do fine as long as we stay focused."

Knights come alive in second half but lose game, fall to 3-10

By AARON WILSON
Staff Writer

The Niagara Knights women's basketball team is at 3-10 on the season. The Knights lost to Fanshawe College, of London, Ont., 82-52 on Jan. 27 here. Niagara played well in the second half after coming alive, but the deficit was too much.

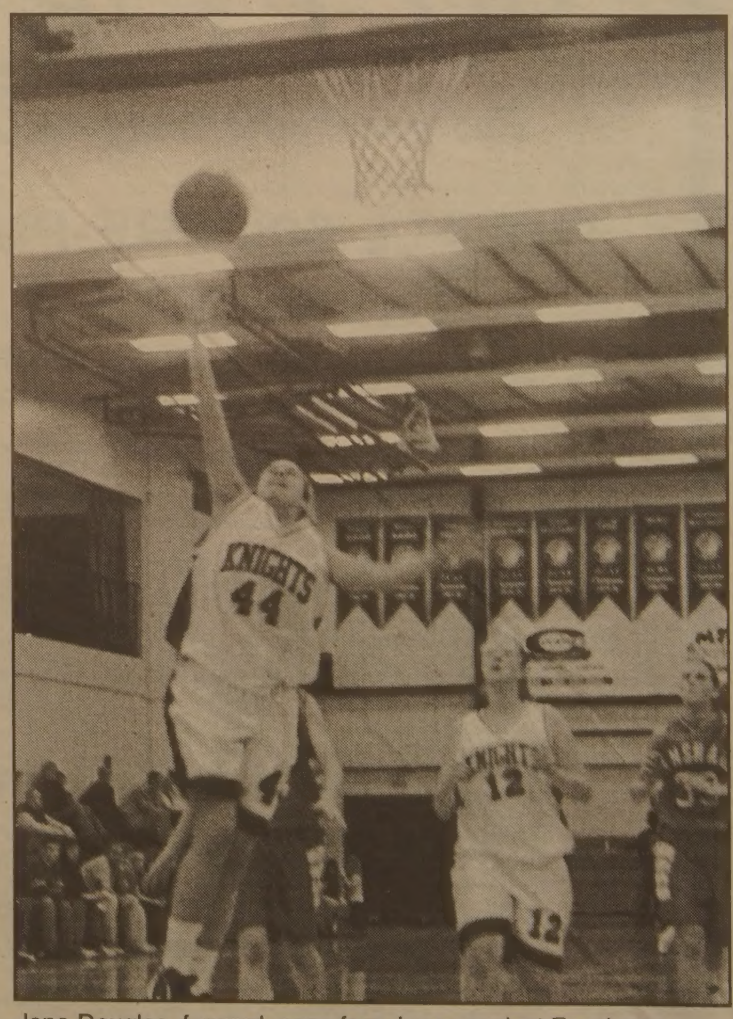
Carrie Stratford, forward, played a great game despite fighting bronchitis, scoring a team high 13 points. Stratford says in the first half, "We relaxed a bit and stepped into a hole," and in the second half, "we started coming together as a team breaking the press."

Jana Douglas, forward, scored 12 points. Douglas says the team was most frustrated with the full court press. "We just need to slow down more."

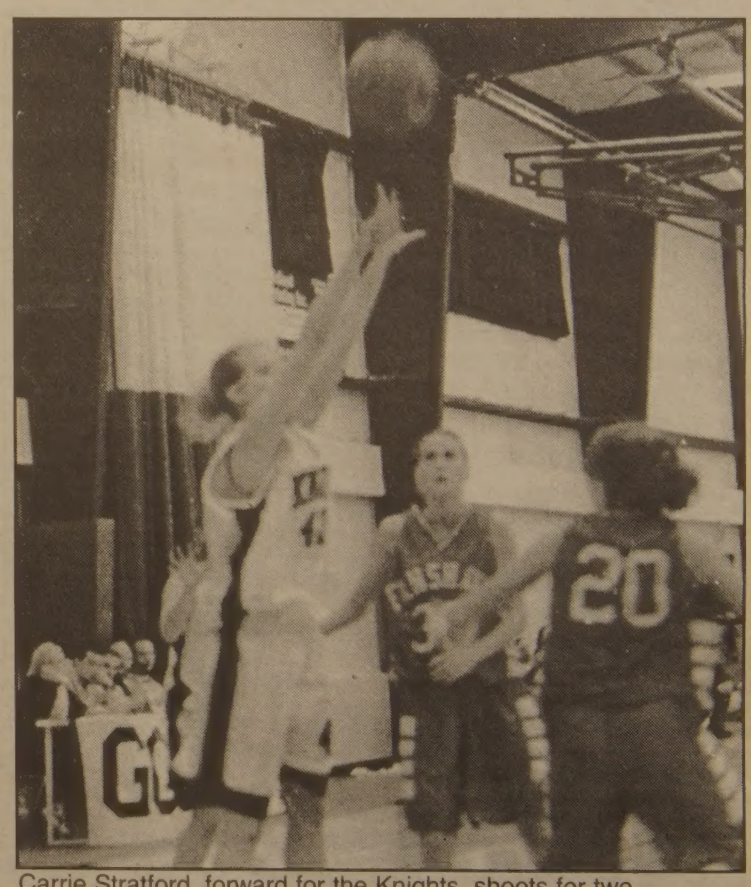
Coach Georgie Groat says the team was "noticeably tired, you could see it. We had to sub(stitute) through quickly and couldn't get into a groove."

Niagara has five games left on the schedule, with one home game remaining, their last game of the season. To make the playoffs, they must win the majority of their games and hope one of the top six makes mistakes. As it stands, they are eighth in the division with the top six teams making the playoffs.

Niagara is two games behind Georgian College, of Barrie,



Jana Douglas, forward, goes for a layup against Fanshawe.
Photo by Aaron Wilson



Carrie Stratford, forward for the Knights, shoots for two.
Photo by Aaron Wilson

which might make the last game of the year at home against them interesting.

Niagara plays their next two games on the road against St. Lawrence College, of Kingston, on Feb. 3, and Seneca College, of North York, at 6 p.m. on Feb. 6.

MEN IN ACTION

Team effort leads to victory over Nipissing

All 12 players in uniform see the court and contribute to a three game to nothing triumph over the little university from North Bay.

By JOËL D. HERRINGTON
Staff Writer

The Niagara Knights men's volleyball team has moved to 10-0 and stand in third place in the nation.

Niagara is behind Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in Calgary, Alta., and Red Deer College in Red Deer, Alta.

Following on the heels of a victory by the women's team, the Niagara Knights men's volleyball team completed a sweep of the Nipissing Lakers, during the nightcap of a doubleheader on Jan. 26 at home.

"Looks like we're ready to punish teams and act like a fourth-ranked team," says head coach Blair Cudmore.Rightside power-hitter Graeme Gaunt, 20, says the team has cut down on mental and serving errors. Gaunt led the way for Niagara, as he posted 10 offensive points.

Nonetheless, it was a well-rounded offence that won this match for the Knights. Captain Josh Gunnell had nine points, while middles Juston Ross and Jason Reimer, as well as power hitter Corey Lahey, each finished with eight points.

Once again, the 14-man roster triumphed over the lowly Lakers easily. In a game where nearly every player had a chance to see the court, Niagara won by scores of 25-10, 25-18 and 25-19.

Missing from the lineup was veteran Shawn Barbisan, who has been sidelined because of a back injury. Assistant coach Kerby Bentley says it doesn't matter how long it takes, the team will wait until Barbisan is ready before inserting him back into the lineup.

"This team is not dependent on one person," says Bentley, adding, "I'd rather have him at 100 per cent than 80 per cent. There's no rush to put him in to risk more injury."

Although the crowd was mostly silent during the match, there were signs of improvement. With the help of College President Dan Patterson and his faculty, the speechless crowd managed to provide some encouragement for the undefeated Knights.

Middle Juston Ross swings at the ball for a powerful smash last Friday against the visiting Nipissing Lakers. Ross added eight points to an all-around offensive performance by the 10-0 Knights. Fans can see more of Ross and the Knights as they host Windsor's St. Clair College tonight.

Photo by Joël D. Herrington

Niagara is close to performing at last year's unstoppable level, yet Bentley says his team is far from where he wants it to be.

"I want professionalism. I want them to be like a machine." Last Friday's contest displayed a flurry of kills and several stuff blocks. The Knights seemed loose and ready for anything. The team's practices are serious and intense, says Bentley. "They should show the same intensity and professionalism in the games. It hasn't showed up yet."

Throughout the season, Cudmore's squad has exhibited the importance of a deeply talented roster. Any time a player is injured or suspended, a suitable replacement is found.

"There's some very good competition for the starting roles on this team," says Cudmore. Nearly everybody has received a chance to play. Cudmore says getting everyone in the game during the regular season will be important come playoff time. "If somebody gets hurt, we want to make sure we have someone that's had some (playing) experience."

Two weeks ago, Gaunt was named Male Athlete of the Week by the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association. He says the award was a surprise because he hasn't been playing his best volleyball. "I don't think I've been playing the best, like I did last year." As for his team's performance this season, Gaunt says, "We're looking pretty good."

It is difficult to criticize a team that hasn't lost a single match. However, Bentley says there is still room for improvement.

"We want to be No. 1 and we still have a lot of work to become No. 1."

Tonight, the Knights will host St. Clair College, for a 7:30 p.m. match. The team from Windsor is living for the basement of the West Region.

Ellis scores 21 but Knights fall short in overtime

By AARON WILSON
Staff Writer

The Niagara Knights men's basketball team lost a heartbreaker.

They lost in overtime to Fanshawe College, of London, by a score of 74-73 on Jan. 27 at home.

Niagara was up at halftime but dug themselves into a hole in the second half. At one point, the Knights were down 61-51, but came back 65-62 with 16 seconds left on the clock. Fanshawe got the ball and launched a three pointer to tie it up.

Niagara is now 4-2, and second in the West Region behind Fanshawe with their only two losses this season to that team.

The Knights did well, especially rookie LeVar Morgan, at offensive rebounding in the last eight minutes of the game. Morgan, centre, pulled down seven rebounds and scored 13 points. Morgan says the most frustrating thing was "guarding No. 44 (Jordan Sanders). He was hard to stop."

Ernell Ellis, forward, was the leading scorer for Niagara with 21 points, and eight boards. Ellis says Fanshawe isn't the most competitive team they have played. "We just didn't try hard enough to win."

Haldon Hutchinson, captain, who netted 15 points, says the frustration came "when we gave up the three-point basket in overtime."

Levar Morgan, forward for Niagara, powers in to hit a key basket against Fanshawe. The basket helped Niagara into overtime. Unfortunately, the Knights lost in overtime 74-73. The Knights now embark on a five-game road trip.

Photo by Aaron Wilson

The Niagara Knights go on a five-game road trip with their next two games being a double header against Sault College, of Sault Ste. Marie, today and tomorrow.

West Region Standings
Men's Basketball

Team	W	L	Pts
Fanshawe	7	1	14
Niagara	4	2	8
St. Clair	4	2	8
Mohawk	4	3	8
Lambton	4	4	8
Sault	3	5	6
Redeemer	0	9	0

Men's Volleyball

Team	W	L	Pts
Niagara	10	0	20
Canadore	6	4	12
Redeemer	6	4	12
Mohawk	4	6	8
Nipissing	4	8	8
St. Clair	2	10	4

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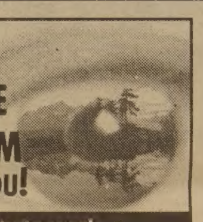

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MONEY-MAKER$

College Foundation receives $4.3 million for renovations

By KEVIN HARTFORD
Staff Writer

The Niagara College Foundation has received about $4.3 million from the provincial government's SuperBuild fund and is looking to raise an additional $3 million from other sources.

The SuperBuild Fund is "a fund that the province made available specifically to colleges and universities to help them with their various infrastructure requirements," says Darrell Neufeld, executive assistant to college President Dan Patterson.

The money will go towards the "ambitious and much-needed" project for renovations and construction on the college's Maid of the Mist campus in Niagara Falls.

"The Maid of the Mist Centre," says Neufeld, "which houses the hospitality and tourism division, has run out of space, and because of the demand for our programs there, and the demand for graduates from the industry, we need to expand and upgrade the space that is there."

The Maid of the Mist project is Phase Two of the foundation's Master Plan, a multi-year and multi-phased initiative for improvements on Niagara College's three campuses.

The Niagara College Foundation, after Feb. 5, will be headed by a new executive director, Sylvia Kadlick, following the departure of Chris Blake, who served as executive director of the foundation for three years.

DARRELL NEUFELD

"(Chris) made an enormous contribution to the college and to the foundation," says Neufeld. "What made Sylvia an outstanding candidate, and what led to her successful selection, was her depth of experience in fund-raising."

Before working with the foundation, Kadlick worked in Toronto for the Ketchum Fund Raising Counsel and the Kids Help Foundation, both in Toronto and the United Way of Greater Toronto.

The Niagara College Foundation is responsible for "raising money, essentially, to support students and to support the college's needs," says Neufeld. "It does two things. It works with donors to solicit financial support and raise money for our awards, scholarships and bursary programs, as well as raising money to support our programming needs and our capital infrastructure needs."

Neufeld says Kadlick will "hit the ground running" in terms of getting the Phase Two campaign off the ground.

"I've had the occasion to meet her a couple of times, and I think she'll fit right in. She's got a proven track record, so I'm confident that she'll do a great job for us and for the students, because, really, this all boils down to meeting students' needs, and the foundation exists to help students. I'm confident she'll make a great contribution."

College hires new executive director

By LAURA T. RICCIUTO
Staff Writer

Show us the money.

Niagara College has hired a new executive director of the Niagara College Foundation to replace the former "$3-million man," Chris Blake.

On Feb. 5, Sylvia Kadlick will begin her "open-ended" position. She will be responsible for overseeing the fund-raising campaigns and operations at Niagara College. Her salary range is $62,771 to $83,695.

In Kadlick's profile, she is self-described as a "dynamic player with reputable leadership capabilities who motivates and encourages others to achieve their best."

Niagara College President Dan Patterson says Kadlick possesses a "tremendously strong fund-raising background," adding, "she has roots in Niagara that she wanted to return to . . . It was nice timing and that worked out well."

She is bringing with her a background in "identification, cultivation, recruitment, orientation and management of campaign volunteers."

Among her achievements, Kadlick has previously worked for Ketchum Fund Raising Counsel (KFRC) in Toronto, as senior director. Within her time at the KFRC she "developed capital campaign plans and strategies for diverse client groups."

Prior to that position, Kadlick worked for the Kids Help Foundation in Toronto, as manager of development and corporate fund-raising. She was also a campaign manager of the United Way of Greater Toronto.

Within these positions Kadlick designed and implemented successful fund-raising campaigns that reached over 200 corporations and employee groups.

In addition, Kadlick notes that she has achieved overall annual campaigns for the United Way that have reached $40 million, as well as $5 million for the Kids Help Foundation, in yearly results.

Junior curlers coming to St. Catharines

By KEVIN HARTFORD
Staff Writer

The 2001 Karcher Canadian Junior Curling Championships begin tomorrow in St. Catharines.

First-place teams will advance to the finals at the St. Catharines Golf and Country Club, while second- and third-place teams will meet in the semi-finals at the Jack Gatecliff Arena in St. Catharines.

The men's final will be televised by CBC-TV at 1:30 p.m. on Feb. 10, and the women's final will be shown on Feb. 11 at 1:30 p.m.

Thirteen teams of junior men and 13 teams of junior women, representing Canada's 10 provinces, as well as Northern Ontario, and the Yukon and Northwest Territories, will compete to become national junior champions.

Brad Gushue, of St. John's, Nfld., and Mike McEwen, of Brandon, Man., will lead the junior men's field. Gushue will be attempting to win his province's first-ever junior men's title.

Stefanie Miller, of Saskatchewan, and Suzanne Gaudet, of Prince Edward Island, will head the junior women's field. Miller won last year's Karcher Juniors in Moncton, N.B.

The winning teams will represent Canada at the world junior curling championships, which will take place over 11 days in Ogden, Utah, from March 15 through March 25.

ENVIRONMENT WATCH

Environmental grad students in demand

(This is the third part of a series on environmental programs at Niagara College's Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake.)

By PAUL FINELLI
Staff Writer

Though budgetary concerns often are the reason for amalgamating two programs, industry demand may make it natural to combine two of Niagara College's environmental programs.

Rick Brady, environment professor and co-ordinator of the Environmental Management (Post-graduate) and Environmental Assessment (Post-graduate) programs, said "market demand is demanding skill sets" from both of the Centre for Environmental Training's programs. "There's a growing demand for the environmental management program, and there's a growing demand for a combination of the two."

In response, next term the centre will introduce the Environmental Management and Assessment (Post-graduate) program, combining the different aspects of both into one certificate program.

To date, as with other environmental programs at the college, he said the students typically do "a lot of hands-on in both (programs) in terms of sampling and in terms of doing projects which are very community oriented, things that are required in the community."

He noted, while the environmental management program has been geared towards work in the private sector or sometimes government agencies like Ontario's Ministry of the Environment, the environmental assessment program tends to provide training for the public sector, including conservation authorities. "So we tend to service the environmental consulting industry..If not the consulting industry that deals with creating wetlands or that support ecosystem restoration, we go with things that service more the municipalities, that service parts of the plants . . . like GM."

The program was designed to be an interdisciplinary program, which provides critical and practical environmental skills to graduates already with degrees or diplomas. It has been assessed annually by the industry and measured against national standards being developed in the environmental skills area, so it remains up to date. The overall in-class and practical training meets a critical need in the environmental field as companies and organizations enhance their environmental responsibilities. Graduates have gained positions in waste reduction and management and integrated environmental management.

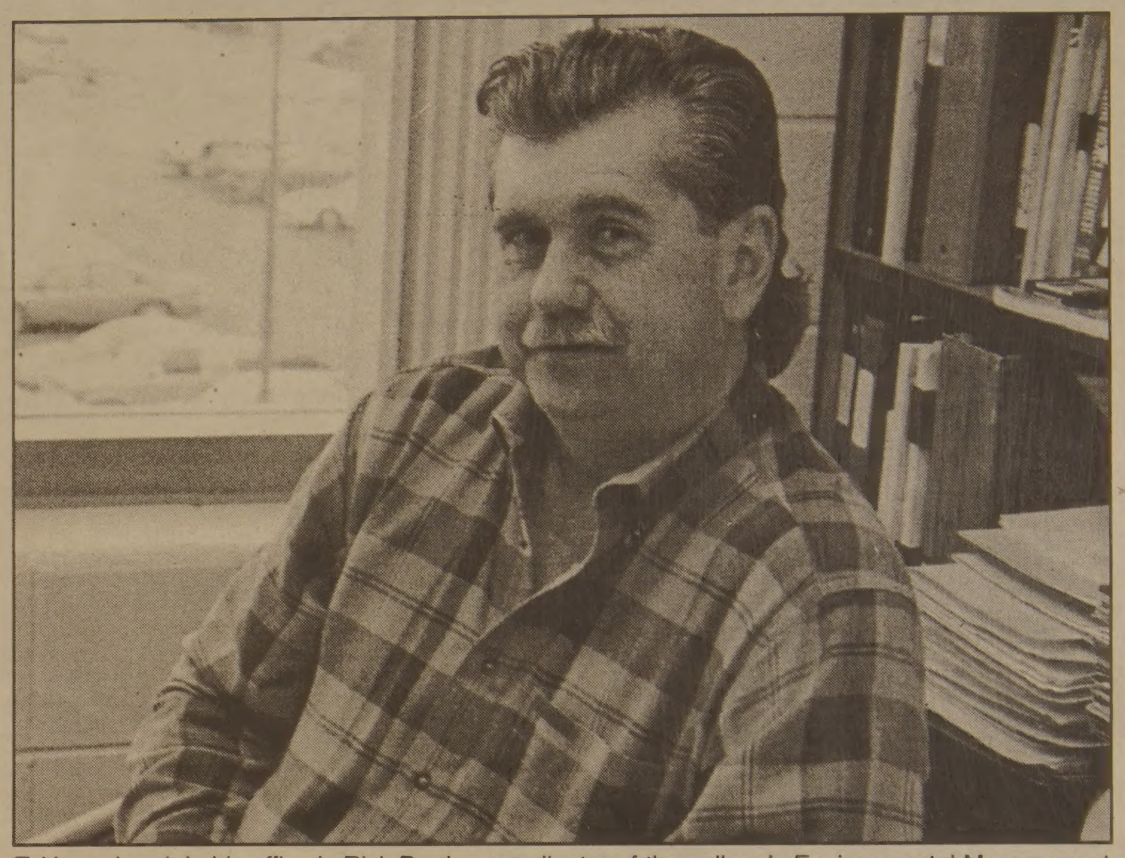
The Environmental Assessment (Post-graduate) program not only addresses the demand of individuals already with a diploma or degree for additional skills in a specialized environmental field but also provides a combination of management and technical courses. These courses are geared to broadening the range of skills and learning that can be used in the assessment field. Linkages are made to government requirements, class environmental assessments, public consultation programs and administrative hearings. As well, students actually undertake an environmental impact assessment, which becomes integrated into a research project. Graduates gain employment as environmental consultant and environmental assessment co-ordinators for private- or public-sector clients.

Brady recognized a trend that the jobs available in the market for graduates of both programs were overlapping. "What we're finding is that consultants that are hiring our graduates are working for both the private sector and for the government sector, so they need the skill sets from both (programs). So we're trying to do that; we're trying to blend them together."

Besides continuing courses common to both programs, like occupation health and safety, provincial and federal laws and regulations pertaining to both assessment and management will be taught together in the new combination. "So we're bringing in an instructor who's going to deal with those laws and regulations so the students are more up to speed on that." As well, classes will be deliberately smaller in number to ensure more one-on-one learning in the classroom and labs. Through all this, the goal is, the co-ordinator added, the students will come out of the program with "a more rounded background."

He summed up the overall enthusiasm of the students during and after they complete their studies. "I think the students are interested in what we're offering and think that they're finding it quite useful. I get a lot of e-mail from my graduates about where they are and what they're doing, and they seem to utilize their skills from the (programs) quite a bit."

(Next week: how ecosystem restoration co-operates between nations.)



Taking a break in his office is Rick Brady, co-ordinator of the college's Environmental Management (Post-graduate) and Environmental Assessment (Post-graduate) programs. Beginning in September, in light of growing "market demand," the two programs will be merged into one comprehensive program.

Photo by Paul Finelli

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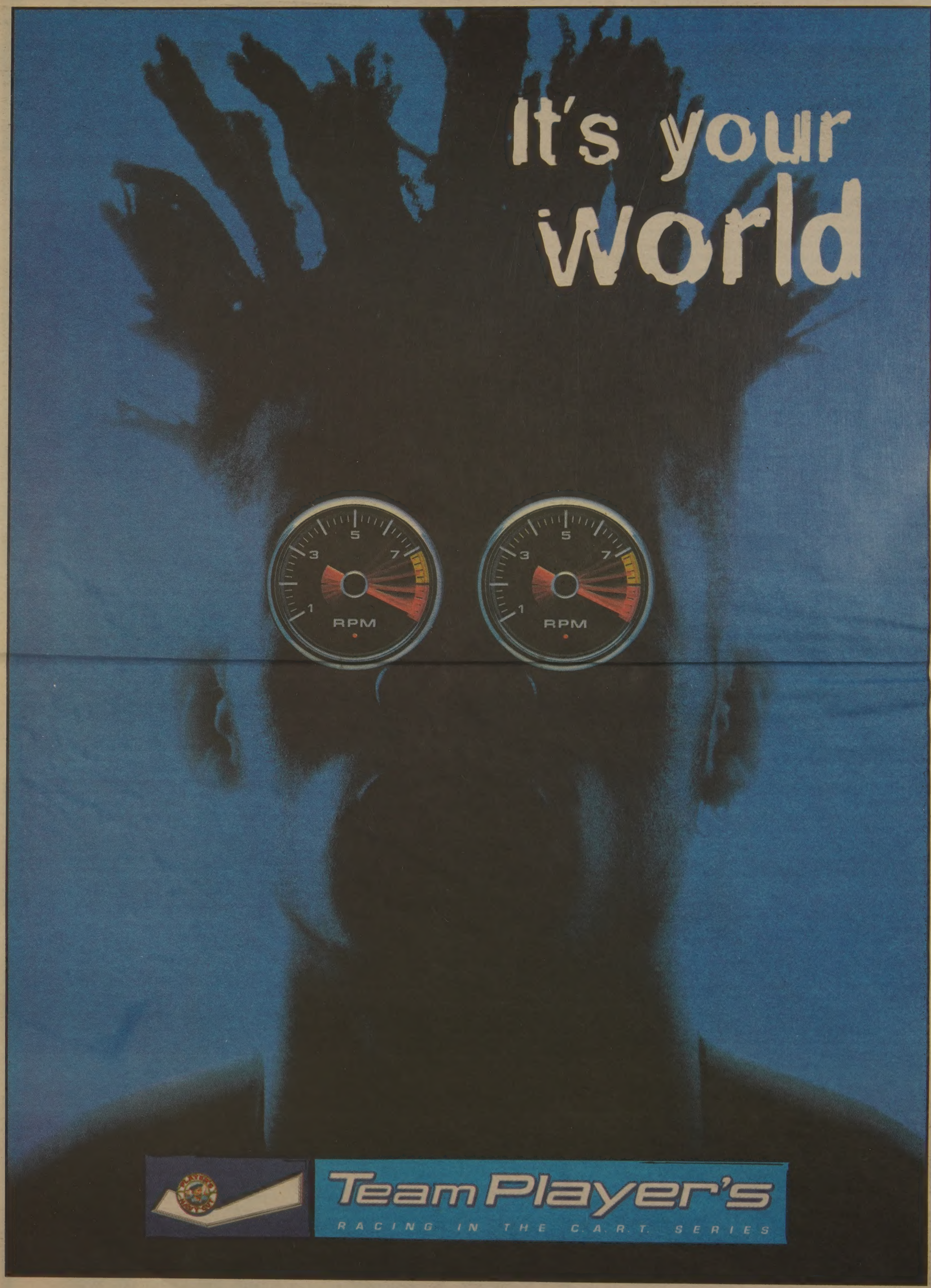
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